

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 480.002—Special Topics: Issues in Sport Directorship (3)
Spring 2013

DAY/TIME:	Variable	LOCATION:	Variable
PROFESSOR	Dr. R. Pierre Rodgers	EMAIL ADDRESS:	prodgers@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	Recreation and Athletic Complex (RAC) 2109 (FFX); Bull Run Hall 201F (PW)	PHONE NUMBER:	703.993.8317
OFFICE HOURS:	T 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. FFX R 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PW Other times by arrangement	FAX NUMBER:	703.993.2025
PREREQUISITES:	60 hours		

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Selected topics reflecting interest in specialized areas of sport management.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. analyze the duties and responsibilities of the modern athletic director;
2. synthesize the pertinent literature related to intercollegiate athletics and the role of athletic director; and
3. gain an understanding of the career opportunities available for athletic directors in the academic sport industry.

COURSE OVERVIEW: POLICIES

1. As this is a variable course, the idea of “participation” is not the same as it would be for a regularly-scheduled class. Instead, we will meet as needed and for whatever “schedule” is required (e.g., weekly, bi-weekly).
2. **Written Assignments.** Written assignments will be expected to demonstrate college-quality writing. In-class writing will not be stringently evaluated, but ALL work prepared outside of class (papers) will be assessed for content AND for presentation. While a variety of qualities may pass for “college level,” at a minimum it means writing is appropriately concise and clear; words are properly spelled; punctuation is appropriate; sentences are complete; and subject/verb, pronoun/antecedent agree.
3. Papers submitted to the instructor must be typed, and attention should be paid to form (including grammar, punctuation, spelling, and general appearance) as well as to content. Use standard APA documentation consistently.
4. Papers/abstracts/written assignments not turned in on the specified day will be given a grade lower than the one deserved. For example, an “A” assignment submitted late will be given a grade of “B.” No written work will be accepted later than one week after it is due.
5. **Honor Policy.** George Mason University takes its honor policy quite seriously. Examinations, papers, and other assignments must be your own work (except where you hire a typist or proofreader) with only the exception of group projects.
6. **Plagiarism** is representing another’s work as your own or recycling your work and representing earlier work as new work. Remember to use proper source citations in citing the evidence you use in your research. Failure to do your own work, or not to give credit where necessary, may result in failing the course and a report to the honor committee.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

The class will follow an independent study format, supplemented by meeting with the course instructor as needed.

REQUIRED READINGS

None. Instead, you will be expected to read widely and ultimately comment and report on significant research (e.g., books, journals, newspapers, magazines) found in the area of intercollegiate athletic directors. You should first contact Ms. Janna Mattson (jmatto1@gmu.edu), Reference/Liaison Librarian, Social Science—Mercer Library (PWC); 703.993.8348. Conversely, at the Fairfax campus, you can contact Ms. Anne Driscoll (adrisc2@gmu.edu), CEHD Liaison Librarian, Fenwick Library; 703.993.3715. Once you do, tell either Ms. Matson or Ms. Driscoll that you are working on a research project about athletic directors. See what suggestions they can offer to point you in the right direction for print and online resources.

As you get into the “meat” of finding relevant sources, you will be able to categorize the types of research available and offer brief commentary on critical references for the literature review portion of your research paper.

RECOMMENDED (OPTIONAL) READING

Hacker, D. (2012). *A pocket style manual* (6th ed.). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

EVALUATION

Grade will be assigned on the basis of a final research paper about intercollegiate athletic directors. Specific guidelines pertaining to paper content will be provided.

Final grades and individual assignments will be recorded with “plus/minus” letter grade annotations. You can use the table below to do your own grade calculation. Convert letter grades to numerical equivalents using this scale: A=10, A-=9, B+=8, B=7, B-=6, C+=5, C=4, C-=3, D=2, F=1. Multiply the numerical equivalent by the weight to get the weighted value. Add the weighted values and use the conversion scale to convert the total back to a letter grade. (Note: No credit towards graduation accrues from a failing grade or from a grade that is replaced by a retaken course. For more information, please consult the current edition of the university catalog.)

	Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Weight	Weighted Value
Research Paper			1.0	
TOTAL				

Grading Scale

A = 10.0-9.5	B+ = 8.9-8.0	C+ = 5.9-5.0	D = 2.9-2.0
A- = 9.49-9.0	B = 7.9-7.0	C = 4.9-4.0	F = 1.9-0.0
	B- = 6.9-6.0	C- = 3.9-3.0	

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	READING
Week 1	Confirmation of negotiated proposal and evaluation criteria	
Week 2	Development of bibliographic resources and research problem	
Week 3	Independent research activity	
Week 4	Independent research activity	
Week 5	Independent research activity	

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	READING
Week 6	Independent research activity	
Week 7	Independent research activity	
Week 8	Independent research activity	
Week 9	Progress meeting with instructor	
Week 10	Independent research activity	
Week 11	Independent research activity	
Week 12	Independent research activity	
Week 13	Independent research activity	
Week 14	Revisions	
Week 15	Submission of final research paper	

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu/>].

CORE VALUES COMMITMENT: The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles.

