

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 304 -001 Sport, Culture, and Society (3)  
Fall 2016

DAY/TIME:	Th 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.	LOCATION:	FX-West RM 1007
INSTRUCTOR:	Mr. Mark Shriver	EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:mshriver@gmu.edu">mshriver@gmu.edu</a>
OFFICE LOCATION:	West RM 1007	PHONE NUMBER:	401-419-8951
OFFICE HOURS:	AFTER CLASS OR BY APPOINTMENT	FAX NUMBER:	

PREREQUISITES:  
NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Analyzes sport from educational, political, economic, and cultural perspectives.

This course examines the role of sport in contemporary American society. Through the utilization of scholarly interpretations, students examine the way sport is linked to the structure and dynamics of social life. Particular attention is devoted to the interrelationship between sport, society, social organizations, and social change.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. How and why sport (and certain sports in particular) have been created and organized in certain ways.
2. The connection between sports and other spheres of social life, such as family, education, politics, the economy, the media, and religion.
3. How sports and sport participation inform the way people think about their own bodies and about gender, social class, race and ethnicity, and disability.
4. The social organization, group behavior, and social interaction patterns that exist within sport settings.
5. The social processes that occur in conjunction with sports (e.g., socialization, competition, cooperation, conflict, social stratification, social change).

POLICIES

1. Participation: Attendance is essential for the success of the class. Much of your work is based on information from the lectures and participation in class discussions. Should you miss an assignment due to absence, you will be allowed to make it up provided that you have written documentation regarding the nature of the absence.
2. Written Assignments: Written assignments will be expected to demonstrate college quality writing. Papers and 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."
3. Honor Policy: George Mason University take its honor policy quite seriously. Examinations, papers, and other assignments must be your own work with the only exception of group projects.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY: Face-To-Face

**REQUIRED READINGS**

Coakley, J. (2015). *Sports in society: Issues and controversies (11<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

**EVALUATION:**

*This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 380 possible points.*

Requirements		Percent
Exam		
#1	Mid Term (Chapters 1, 3-7)	120
#2	Final Exam (Chapters 8-12, 14)	120
<i>Quizzes (3 quizzes worth 10 points each)</i>		30
<i>Op-Ed Research Paper</i>		100
<i>Participation (two current event articles)</i>		10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>380</b>

Grading Scale											
A	=	94 – 100	B+	=	88 – 89	C+	=	78 – 79	D	=	60 – 69
A-	=	90 – 93	B	=	84 – 87	C	=	74 – 77	F	=	0 – 59
			B-	=	80 – 83	C-	=	70 – 73			

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

DATE			TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
Th	September	1	First Day of Class	<b>Buy the Book</b>
Th	September	8	Sociology of Sport and Defining Sport	Chapter 1
Th	September	15	Sports and Socialization	Chapter 3
Th	September	22	Sports for Children	Chapter 4
Th	September	29	Deviance in Sports	Chapter 5
Th	October	6	Violence in Sports & <b>PAPERS DUE</b>	Chapter 6
Th	October	13	Gender and Sports	Chapter 7
Th	October	20	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	Chapters 1, 3-7

DATE			TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
Th	October	27	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 8
Th	November	3	Social Class in Sports	Chapter 9
Th	November	10	Age and Ability	Chapter 10
Th	November	17	Sports and the Economy	Chapter 11
Th	December	1	Sports and the Media	Chapter 12
Th	December	8	Sports in High School and College	Chapter 14
Th	December	15	<b>Final Exam 7:30 - 10:15</b>	Chapters 8 - 12, 14

*Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.*

## Op- Ed Assignment (100)

This assignment is *persuasive*. That is, it is either for or against argument.

**The writing part of the assignment is due October 6th!! No late assignment will be accepted!!**

You are assigned a topic related to the course and you are to write an op-ed.

An op-ed is 800 words. **BUT NO MORE THAN THIS!!** The purpose of an op-ed is to use facts and research to develop a persuasive argument. (Read some op-ed's in the *Washington Post* or elsewhere to get an idea of what these are like). An op-ed generally tackles only one small part of an issue and takes a clear stance on the issue.

(for or against)

For example, you might develop an argument about *Instant Replay* in intercollegiate sports; when it can be used; when it can't be used; how many times it can be used employed etc.

Your op-ed will be written and then on the assigned date you will read it in class. (6 min maximum)!!

Your op-ed will be judged on the following:

- (1) The op-ed is built using reliable sources (e.g. research!)
- (2) The op-ed has a thesis statement that is concise and narrows the argument to one main point that can be argued
- (3) The op-ed is persuasive
- (4) The op-ed offers some alternative or action

Tests: Tests will be multiple choice covering the assigned chapters and readings. There will be two tests (mid-term and final exam). Each worth 120 points.

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes throughout the semester. They are unannounced and based on the reading from the previous class. The quizzes will be true/false, ten questions.

Participation: Students will be asked to choose two current event articles from any reliable media source that relates to a chapter in the book. Students will then present the article for discussion. Each article is worth five points.

## **GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code (See <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- c. 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.
- d. 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/>).
- e. 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/>).
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. 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/>).
- h. The Office of Student Support staff helps students negotiate life situations by connecting them with appropriate campus and off-campus resources. Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone (703-993-5376). Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community (<http://studentsupport.gmu.edu/>) and the staff will follow up with the student.

## **PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

## **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.

