

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 455 (DL1) – Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations
3 Credits, Spring 2017
Online

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

60 hours, including SPMT 201, or permission of instructor.

University Catalog Course Description

This course is an examination of sport organizations focused on both professional and amateur governance structures and processes. The study of policy in educational, non-profit, professional and international sport venues will also be addressed.

Course Overview

This course prepares students to gain an appreciation and knowledge of sport governance and policy development today, while analyzing the strategies and concepts that are apparent within today's industry. Specifically, students will:

- Identify governing bodies in professional and amateur sport
- Recognize policy components and processes in major sport governing bodies
- Recognize the influence of governmental bodies and commissions on sports
- Identify the organizational structure of various sport governing bodies
- Assess the authority and functions of various sport governing bodies
- Identify the membership requirements of various sport governing bodies
- Identify the sanctions and appeal processes utilized by sport governing bodies
- Understand American sport policy and governance in comparative and international context
- Understand different forms of sport policy and governance internationally

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before "@masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available online January 22, 2017 at midnight.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard).
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download: [Add or delete options, as desire.]
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Windows Media Player: <https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/>
 - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Expectations

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Friday morning, and finish on Thursday night at 11:59 p.m.
- Log-in Frequency: Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least five times per week.
- Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence: Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues: Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload: Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates*. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Instructor Support: Students may schedule one-on-one meetings to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette: The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- Accommodations: Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

Learner Objectives

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

1. Identify governing bodies in professional and amateur sport
2. Recognize policy components and processes in major sport governing bodies
3. Recognize the influence of governmental bodies and commissions on sports
4. Identify the organizational structure of various sport governing bodies
5. Assess the authority and functions of various sport governing bodies
6. Identify the membership requirements of various sport governing bodies
7. Identify the sanctions and appeal processes utilized by sport governing bodies
8. Understand American sport policy and governance in comparative and international context
9. Understand different forms of sport policy and governance internationally

Required Texts

Hums, M. A., & MacLean, J. C. (2013). *Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations* (3rd ed.). Scottsdale, AZ: Holcomb Hathaway, Publishers, Inc.

Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

Assignments and Examinations	% of Grade
Online Assignments and Quizzes: Students are required to complete weekly online assignments and quizzes demonstrating knowledge gained through readings and online modules. There are ten multiple choice – True/False quizzes throughout the duration of the course.	20
United States Sport Organization Paper: Students select an issue related to their field of interest and determine a series of research questions that can be approached through statistical analyses. Once topic is determined, students will create a comprehensive database to serve as the basis for their final individual project reports. There are two parts to this assignment which include (1) an initial proposal and dataset and, (2) The final proposal and dataset.	20
Midterm Exam: True/False, Matching, Short Definitions and Short Essay. All materials covered in Chapters 1-8 in Hums and MacLean as well as online modules will be included.	20
International Sport Federation Paper: Students are required to learn the statistical platform R which is the industry standard in relation to sport analytics and comprises the most important element of the course. Students will use the textbook in conjunction with R as well as developed datasets to demonstrate comprehension and techniques learned throughout the course. There are five R assignments throughout the duration of the course.	20
Final Exam: True/False, Matching, Short Definitions and Short Essay. All materials covered in Chapters 9-15 in Hums and MacLean as well as online modules will be included.	20
Total	100

Grading Policies

A = 94 – 97	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	

Professional Dispositions

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

Class Schedule

Date		Topic	Readings and Assignments
January	27	Introduction to Sport Governance	Hums – Chapter 1 Online Module and Quiz # 1
February	3	Managerial Activities Related to Governance	Hums – Chapter 2 Online Module and Quiz # 2
	10	Strategic Management and Policy Development	Hums – Chapter 3 Online Module and Quiz # 3
	17	Ethics in Sport Organizations	Hums – Chapter 4 Online Module and Quiz # 4
	24	Scholastic Sport Amateur Sport in the Community	Hums – Chapter 5 Hums – Chapter 6 Online Module and Quiz # 5
March	3	Campus Recreation Intercollegiate Sport	Hums – Chapter 7 Hums – Chapter 8 Online Module and Quiz # 6
	10	Midterm Exam – Online – Chapters 1-8	N/A
	17	No Class – Spring Break	N/A
	24	The Major Games in Amateur Sport	Hums – Chapter 9 Online Module and Quiz # 7
	31	Olympic Sport Paralympic Sport	Hums – Chapter 10 Hums – Chapter 11 Online Module and Quiz # 8
April	7	U.S. Sport Organization Paper	Instructions Provided
	14	Professional Sport Leagues in North America Professional Individual Sports	Hums – Chapter 12 Hums – Chapter 13 Online Module and Quiz # 9
	21	Professional Sport Beyond North America The Future of Sport Governance	Hums – Chapter 14 Hums – Chapter 15 Online Module and Quiz # 10
	28	International Sport Federation Paper	Instructions Provided
May	5	Final Exam – Online – Chapters 9-15	N/A

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:

<http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>.
- The Writing Center 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/>).
- The 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 Student Support & Advocacy Center staff helps students develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through confidential one-on-one support as well as through interactive programs and resources. Some of the topics they address are healthy relationships, stress management, nutrition, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use, and sexual health (see <http://ssac.gmu.edu/>). Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone at 703-993-3686. 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 by going to <http://ssac.gmu.edu/make-a-referral/>.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/>.