

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Sport Management**

SPMT 304.002 – Sport, Culture, and Society  
3 Credits, Fall 2018  
W F 12:00p – 1:15 p Thompson Hall L003 – Fairfax Campus

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Analyzes sport from educational, political, economic, and cultural perspectives. Offered by Recreation, Health & Tourism. May not be repeated for credit.

**Course Overview**

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 an analysis of the interrelationship between sport, society, social organization, and social change.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered using lecture, discussion, and group work format.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives:**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. [know] how and why sport, in general, and certain sports in particular, have been created and organized in certain ways;
2. [understand] the connection between sports and other spheres of social life, such as family, education, politics, the economy, the media, and religion;
3. [discover] 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. [analyze] the social organization, group behavior, and social interaction patterns that exist within sport settings;
5. [study] the cultural, structural, and situational factors affecting sports and sport experiences;  
and

6. [identify] the social processes that occur in conjunction with sports (e.g., socialization, competition, cooperation, conflict, social stratification, social change).

**Professional Standards** [Commission of Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA)]

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

Principle 3.3: General Education

According to COSMA (2016, p. 16):

Excellence in sport management education at the undergraduate level requires a broad educational background on which to base collegiate sport management studies. This requires sport management students to have the general knowledge and skills that will prepare them to understand and appreciate the broader historical, cultural, social, political and economic contexts in which sport management takes place and to function effectively in an ever-changing global environment.

For more information, please see:

Commission of Sport Management Accreditation. (2016, May). *Accreditation principles manual & guidelines for self-study preparation*. Retrieved November 30, 2016 from <http://www.cosmaweb.org/accreditation-manuals.html>

**Required Texts**

Coakley, J. (2017). *Sports in Society: Issues and controversies* (12<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

**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/or Examinations**

- **Evaluation:**

Assignment	Percentage
Exam #1 – <b>BRING SCANTRON</b>	25%
Exam #2 – <b>BRING SCANTRON</b>	25%
Exam #3 – <b>BRING SCANTRON</b>	25%
Quizzes/Out of class writing assignments (x4)	20%
Participation/Attendance/Etc.	5%

- **Assignments**
  - Exams – You will take three scantron tests, each of which will count 25% toward your final grade (total of 75%)
  - Four quizzes – you will also take 4 quizzes which will count 20% toward your final grade (5% each). These quizzes may not be announced in advance, and will primarily cover the readings as well as films we will cover throughout the course.
  - Class participation will make up the other 5% of your grade.
  - **Additional Notes:** You will supply scantron sheets for the tests; the examinations will be based on class lectures, discussions, required readings, and required film screenings. Test items will consist primarily of multiple choice questions, but may also contain true-false, and/or short answer components.
- There will be at least four sport-based films used in the course: *The Sandlot*, *Any Given Sunday*, *Remember the Titans*, and *Go Tigers!*. You are required to screen the films *before* the particular class session in which the movie accompanies a chapter reading **unless otherwise noted**. If you do not have access to the required films, DVDs will be placed on 2 hour course reserve at the Johnson Center Library. In the days leading to the individual film screening, please check out that week’s video and watch it at the library. If you experience difficulty in accessing any of the films, let me know in advance.
- **Other Requirements**
  - **Attendance:** Attendance in class is correlated positively with final grades and learning. Thus, regular attendance will be taken and will also figure in to your final grade. If possible, please clear all absences with me in advance. For absences that cannot be cleared in advance, please provide documentation (doctor’s note, e.g.). **Students who arrive late or leave early will be counted absent for that day.**
  - **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; subject/verb, pronoun/antecedent agree.
  - **Late work:** 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.
  - **Honor Policy:** 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.

- 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 assignment, the course, and/or a report to the honor committee.

- **Grading**

A	= 94 – 100	B+	= 88 – 89	C	= 70 – 79
A-	= 90 – 93	B	= 84 – 87	F	= 0 – 69
		B-	= 80 – 83		

- **Professional Dispositions**

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

### Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week	Wednesday Subjects/Readings/Assignments	Friday Subjects/Readings/Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>8/29:</b> Syllabus and whatnot (Get the Textbook!)	<b>8/31:</b> <i>Beyond A Boundary excerpt</i> (CLR James – see Blackboard) In-Class video – Not Just a Game
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>9/5:</b> Defining “Sport” and the Sociology of Sport (Coakley Chapter 1)	<b>9/7:</b> How Do we Know What we Know? (Coakley Chapter 2)
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>9/12:</b> Sport Socialization (Coakley Chapter 3)	<b>9/14:</b> Sport Socialization; Begin In-class movie ( <i>The Sandlot</i> )
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>9/19:</b> Finish film ( <i>The Sandlot</i> )	<b>9/21:</b> Sports and Children (Coakley Chapter 4)
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>9/26:</b> Sports and Children (No additional reading)	<b>9/28: Exam 1 – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>10/3:</b> Sport and Deviance (Coakley Chapter 5)	<b>10/5:</b> Sport and Deviance ( <b>You should have watched <i>Any Given Sunday</i> BEFORE class</b> )
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>10/10:</b> Sport and Violence (Coakley Chapter 6)	<b>10/12:</b> Continue Sport and Violence (No additional reading)
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>10/17:</b> Sport and Gender (Coakley Chapter 7)	<b>10/19:</b> Continue Sport and Gender (No additional Reading)
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>10/24:</b> Sport, Race, and Ethnicity (Chapter 8)	<b>10/26:</b> Sport, Race, and Ethnicity ( <b>You should have watched <i>Remember the Titans</i> BEFORE class</b> )
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>10/31: Exam #2 – Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8</b>	<b>11/2:</b> Sport and Social Class (Coakley Chapter 9)
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>11/7:</b> Continue Sport and Social Class (No additional Reading)	<b>11/9:</b> Sport and Politics (Coakley Chapter 13)
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>11/14:</b> Sport and Social Class (No additional reading)	<b>11/16:</b> Sport and Schools (Coakley Chapter 14)

	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>11/21 and 11/23</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>11/28:</b> In-class video ( <i>Go Tigers!</i> )	<b>11/30:</b> Continue In-class video
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>12/3:</b> Sport and the Future (Coakley Chapter 16)	<b>12/5:</b> Sport and the Future/Summing up the Course (No additional reading)
	<b>Exam 3</b> – TBA (Sometime between 12/12 and 12/19) <b>Chapters 9, 13, 14, 16</b>	

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- 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](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

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