

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

SPMT 302 – 003 – Philosophical and Ethical Dimensions of Sport (*Online*)
Fall 2019 – online asynchronous

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

none

University Catalog Course Description

Investigates moral issues in sport and judgments about right and wrong behavior among athletes, coaches, spectators, and others. Offered by Recreation, Health & Tourism. May not be repeated for credit.

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. 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. **A standard week runs from 12:01 am Monday and ends 11:59 pm Sunday.**

Learner Outcomes or Objectives

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the moral basis of decision making in sport management.
2. Develop a protocol for ethical decision-making within the organizations which govern sport programs.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the various issues and contemporary problems confronting sport managers and how ethical decision making can be applied.
4. Critically analyze various decision-making approaches to resolving ethical issues in sports management.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of a variety of ethical theories.
6. Attain the knowledge to understand & refine a personal and professional code of ethics to guide decision making.

Texts

Schneider, R. (2009). *Ethics of sport and athletics: Theory, issues, and application*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

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).

The instructor is solely responsible for assigning grades. As such, the instructor reserves the right to assess student performance in each of the categories identified in the EVALUATION section of this syllabus. Student non-compliance with stated academic, honor, attendance, or participation expectations will result in a '0' for the associated evaluation.

Three Quizzes (three chapters per quiz) x 200 points each <i>multiple choice, T/F</i>	600 possible points
Online Discussion Boards (10) x 20 points each	200 possible points
Current Event Ethical Issue Final Paper (2) Final Paper Progress Submissions x 50 points each Final Paper 100 points	200 possible points
Total	1,000 possible points

Instructor Expectations:

1. 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. Your contributions are not only welcomed, they are essential.
2. 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 frequently throughout the week. **Highly recommended to login at least twice a week.**
3. 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.**
4. Workload: Please be aware that this course is not self-paced. Students are expected to meet specific deadlines and due dates listed in the Class Schedule section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
5. Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.
6. Students must abide by the Honor Code, guided by the spirit of academic integrity.

Alternative Work: *There is NO make-up work.* Only those excused absences supported by documentation will be addressed at the instructor’s discretion on an individual basis (e.g. a physician’s note for an illness). Alternative work due to intercollegiate athletic competitions or other legitimate university activity must be arranged PRIOR to due date. A grade of ‘0’ will be assigned to all missed work unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

Grading Scale

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

This course will be graded on a percentage system, with scores adding up to 100 percent.

Professional Dispositions

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

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.

- Religious Holidays - A list of religious holidays is available on the University Life Calendar page (<http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/>). Any student whose religious observance conflicts with a scheduled course activity must contact the Instructor at least 2 weeks in advance of the conflict date in order to make alternative arrangements.

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/>.
- 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/>.

COURSE OUTLINE

This outline indicates which chapters will be covered and when exams will be administered. The ordering of the chapters may be changed as current events dictate.

Week	Topic, Readings, Assignments Due
1	Welcome to SPMT 302 Acquire the textbook Blackboard Discussion board #1 due
2	Ch. 1: Moral Reasoning: An Introduction Blackboard Discussion board #2 due
3	Ch. 2: Ethical and Unethical Behavior in Sport Blackboard Discussion board #3 due
4	Ch. 3: Moral Education and Development Through Sport Blackboard Discussion Board #4 due
5	Quiz #1, submit final paper progression paper on blackboard
6	Ch. 4: Performance Enhancement Issues In Sport Blackboard Discussion Board #5 due
7	Ch. 5: Violence in Sport: Ethically Acceptable Boundaries Blackboard Discussion Board #6 due
8	Ch. 6: Race Equity in Sport Blackboard Discussion Board #7 due
9	Quiz #2, submit final paper progression paper on blackboard

10	Ch. 7: Gender Equity in Athletics and Title IX Blackboard Discussion Board #8 due
11	Ch. 8: Ethical Issues in Interscholastic and Intercollegiate Sport Blackboard Discussion Board #9 due
12	Ch. 9: Ethical Decision Making of Sport Managers Blackboard Discussion Board #10 due
13	Quiz #3
14	Thanksgiving Week, no class
15	<i>Work on Final Papers</i>
Final Exam Period	Submission of final paper on blackboard

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

Blackboard Discussion Boards (10 @ 20 points each)

Online discussions are a way to provide a collaborative classroom experience online. For each discussion, each student is **required to make (at minimum) 4 posts**. An initial discussion post in response to the proposed question(s) must be made by 12:00 NOON, Wednesday of each week. The remaining discussion posts should be in response to other students' initial post. Those responses should be substantive and provide additional analysis/and or raise additional questions. **Each initial post is to be (at minimum) 150 words. Responsive posts are to be (at minimum) 100 words.**

Current Events - Ethical Issues Final Paper

Students will select a total of 5-10 substantive articles from reputable print or electronic media sources that relate to a current event/issue in sport (ethical dilemmas, investigations, fraud, violations, etc). In your paper, briefly summarize each article (200-300 words each). Following these summaries, you will write 3-page critical analysis of the issue as it relates to ethics in sport. It will be useful in this assignment to concentrate your articles within an area of interest to you. This paper is to be 6-8 pages in final length format. You will also complete two paper progression updates on blackboard in the course of the semester. These two progression papers will help you build up to your final paper.