

SPMT 304.002 – Sport, Culture, and Society
College of Education and Human Development
School of Sport Recreation and Tourism Management
3 Credits, Fall 2020
Wednesdays 7:20 – 10:00 pm (Innovation Room 207)

Faculty: Ms. Jodie Wexelberg/Mr. Roger Wexelberg
Email: jwexelbe@gmu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Required Text:

Coakley, J. (2017). *Sports in Society: Issues and controversies* (13th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Course Description

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.

Content Delivery

Course content will be delivered through a combination of lecture, class discussion, reaction to the text, group and individual projects, in-class viewing of select pieces and guest speakers. Students will be expected to read the assigned text and other required material prior to each class.

Class Attendance and Electronic Devices

You are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Please notify the instructor in advance if you know you are going to miss class, and you are responsible for any missed readings or assignments.

We will discuss an electronic device policy on the first day of class, but, in general, it is expected that any use of electronic devices will not be a distraction from content delivery for you or anyone else. Necessary exceptions should be communicated to the instructor at the start of class.

Safe Return to Campus Policy

All students are required to take Safe Return to Campus Training prior to visiting campus: it is, however, recommended for all Mason students. Training is available in [Blackboard](#).

Accommodations for Disabilities

Disability Services collaborates with students with documented disabilities and with faculty to provide reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids, and support services that are individualized and based on medical documentation, functional assessment, and a collaborative assessment of needs.

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/>

Mason Diversity Statement

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services, and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. Read the full [Mason Diversity Statement](#).

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: None

Course Performance Evaluation

This course will be graded on a point system, with the percentage of points earned of the total possible converted to the corresponding letter grade.

5 Class Assignments	10 points each	50 points
4 Quizzes	50 points each	200 points
Final Exam	100 points	100 points
Participation/Attendance	50 points	50 points
TOTAL Possible Points		400 points

Grading Scale

A+=98-100	B+=88-89	C+=78-79	D=60-69
A=94-97	B=84-87	C=74-77	F=0-59
A-=90-93	B-=80-83	C-=70-73	

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course activity will consist of readings, written assignments, quizzes, and final exam. In addition, class attendance and participation will be taken into consideration. Specific point values and grading rubrics will be shared prior to each assignment.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

1. Students must adhere to the policies of the Mason Honor Code. (oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/).
2. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. (universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).
3. 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.
4. 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 (ods.gmu.edu/).
5. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless authorized by the instructor.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

We will follow the general outline and contents of the text, covering 1-2 chapters per week. We will utilize the GMU academic calendar and final exam schedule. Current events and experiential experiences will be included as appropriate. Assignments will be posted in timely fashion on Blackboard and announced in class.

Week	Subjects/Readings/Assignments
Week 1 - 8/26	Introductions * Safety protocols * Review of Game Plan (syllabus) Kick-off Discussion: College and professional sports COVID-19 and a return to action Game 1: Defining "Sport" and the Sociology of Sport (Coakley Chapter 1) Game 2: How Do we Know What we Know? (Coakley Chapter 2)
Week 2 - 9/2	Game 3: Sport Socialization (Coakley Chapter 3) Kick-off Discussion: Sports and Black Lives Matter Game 4: Sport, Race, and Ethnicity (Chapter 8)
Week 3 - 9/9	QUIZ #1: Games 1, 2, 3 & 4 Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 5: Sport and Deviance (Coakley Chapter 5)
Week 4 - 9/16	Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 6: Sport and Violence (Coakley Chapter 6) UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #1 Due
Week 5 - 9/23	Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 7: Sport and Gender (Coakley Chapter 7)
Week 6 - 9/30	QUIZ #2: Games 4, 5, 6 & 7 Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 8: Sport and Children (Coakley Chapter 4) Game 9: Sport, Age and Ability (Chapter 10)
Week 7 - 10/7	Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 10: Sport and Social Class (Coakley Chapter 9) UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #2 Due
Week 8 - 10/14	Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 11: Sport and the Economy (Coakley Chapter 11)
Week 9 - 10/21	QUIZ #3: Games 8, 9, 10 & 11 Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 12: Sport and the Media (Coakley Chapter 12)
Week 10 - 10/28	Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 13: Sport and Politics (Coakley Chapter 13) UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #3 Due
Week 11 - 11/4	Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 14: Sport and Schools (Coakley Chapter 14)
Week 12 - 11/11	Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 15: Sport and Religion (Coakley Chapter 15) UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #4 Due
Week 13 - 11/18	QUIZ #4: Games 12, 13, 14 & 15 Kick-off Discussion: TBD Game 16: Sport and the Future (Coakley Chapter 16) Season In Review
11/25	Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASS
Week 14 – 12/2	UNDER REVIEW – Class Assignment #5 Due
12/9	Final Exam – online – must be taken by December 15

I look forward to working with you this semester and please email me at jwexelbe@gmu.edu if you have any questions.