

SPM 5206 SPORT ETHICS

FALL 2024

Course Information	Credits: 3 Dates: Thursday, August 22 – Wednesday, December 4 Location: Web Based
Contact Information	Instructor: Lindsey Thomas Email: lindseyt@gators.ufl.edu Office Hours: By appointment
Course Website	Canvas https://elearning.ufl.edu
Course Communication	For any course inquiries, please send your questions through the Canvas messages or to lindseyt@gators.ufl.edu and include the course prefix and number in the subject of the email.
Required Books	(1) Champion Jr, W. T., Karcher, L., & Ruddell, L. S. (2020). <i>Sports ethics for sports management professionals</i> (2 nd ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. (2) Maxwell, J. C. (2003). <i>There's no such thing as "business" ethics: There's only one rule for making decisions</i> . New York: Hatchett Book Group.

Course Description

Self-evaluating, examining, and developing philosophy on ethical issues related to sport. Research and discuss major moral and ethical issues related to sport. Opportunities for ethical decision making, using critical analysis.

Purpose of Course

This course is designed to encourage sport managers to think about the moral and ethical dilemmas typically encountered by managers in the sport industry. The course will better acquaint and refine sport managers' understandings of sport relative to issues such as sportsmanship, violence, performance enhancing drugs, race, gender, and media. This will better prepare students in this class to be agents of change within the sport industry to help it strengthen and prosper. This will be accomplished through student discussions, case studies analyses, formal debates, and the development of position papers on particular topics, which will be supplemented with lectures and readings.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe ethics and morals, and discuss their role and application to sport managers and the sport industry
2. Apply the theoretical and foundational concepts that support ethical and moral reasoning
3. Compare the similarities and differences of various ethical theories
4. Discuss factors that influence their decision making and avoid negative factors that may impact their ability to be an ethical sport manager
5. Identify, analyze, and debate specific issues relative to ethical dilemmas commonly encountered within the competitive sport context
6. Demonstrate effective written and verbal communication such as critical thinking, deductive reasoning, decision-making and research skills

COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

1. Please be aware that the online learning platform can sometimes present significant challenges. Unlike traditional classroom settings in which each student gets the same class at a set time and day, the online setting is available to you 24 hours a day and gives students the opportunity to tailor class to their schedule. Please note, however, this course is not entirely self-paced.
2. There are select times during which modules, weekly content, and course materials will be available to you. You can view each week's lectures at any time during the dates in which the weekly content is open. However, exams, discussion questions and other assignments will only be made available to you until the due date(s) listed. There will be no class meetings for me to remind you of important due dates so please be sure to reference the syllabus to familiarize yourself with these critical deadlines.
3. All assignments, discussion questions, exams, etc. are to be completed individually (unless otherwise noted) and submitted by 11:59 PM ET on the date for which the item is due. Discussion questions and exams submitted after this time will not be eligible for credit.
4. If personal circumstances arise that interfere with your ability to meet a deadline, please let me know as soon as possible prior to the deadline. Only university accepted excuses will be accepted and documentation must be provided before make-up work is accepted. Requirements for make-up assignments and other work are consistent with university policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>
5. If you experience trouble with Canvas, your browser, access to your GatorLink account, or any other relevant issues, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk (352) 392-HELP (4357) or helpdesk@ufl.edu. In addition, please email me immediately. When available, please be sure to send me a screenshot of the issue. I will attempt to respond to your emails within 24 business hours. Please remember to include the course prefix and number in your emails and that all correspondence must be presented in a professional manner.
6. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this to the instruction when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments and completing exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.
7. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Evals can be completed through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.
8. You have up to three (3) days after the posting of a grade to contact me regarding any issues or concerns, after which the grade is final. Grades are based on a point scale and will not be rounded.
9. This syllabus represents the tentative plans and objectives for the course. As we go through the semester, plans may need to change to enhance a course learning opportunity. Such changes will be communicated clearly, and are not unusual and should be expected.

Academic Integrity

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge. Any individual who becomes aware of an honor code violation is obligated to take corrective action. Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>.

The Honor Pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding the Honor Code."

U Matter, We Care Information

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Online Profile

Please update your Canvas profile with information and a photo by the end of the first week. This is done to familiarize you with students with whom you will be sharing online time. Click on *Account* in the top left navigation menu on Canvas. Then, click on *Profile*. Then, click on the *Edit Profile* button on the top right side of page. Click on *Save Profile*. Then, click on the profile pic icon to upload photo and then click *Save*.

Written Paper Policies

1. Written papers are to be submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm ET on the date for which the paper is due. Ten percent will be deducted for each day any paper is late, and the paper is considered late after 11:59pm ET on the due date.
2. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing, submitting materials from any source without proper attribution, submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the student did not author, and self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Use an APA cover page with your name, course name, title, and signature.
4. All papers MUST be APA Style. All references must be cited in-text and appear in a reference list at the end of the paper. Assignments must be paginated, 1-inch margins, double spaced and use Times New Roman 12 point font.

Course Format

This course is an online course and all class sessions (including discussion sessions) will be delivered through Canvas. The course is organized around weekly content, and four units make up each weekly content as follows:

1. Lectures
2. Readings
3. Discussion Questions

Lectures and Readings

Key concepts will be presented through brief lectures at the beginning of each weekly content. Each lecture will provide an overview of the central ideas associated with specific concepts for each weekly content.

The primary purpose of the lecture is to lay the foundation of the various concepts and topics of management and leadership in sport. The primary purpose of the readings is to further explore the specific topics or roles that pertain to management and leadership in sport.

Discussion Questions

Discussion questions are used to weave key concepts presented in the lectures and readings into an integrated whole in order to further develop an understanding of the phenomenon in sport. To successfully complete and fully participate in the discussion questions, students will have to do the following:

- View the lectures
- Read and understand the assigned readings prior to the beginning of a discussion
- Prepare and post answers (**150-200 word limit combined**) to the posted discussion questions
 - Two of the ten discussion questions must be answered via video (**2-3 minutes**)
 - If not completed, the last two weeks of discussions will be graded as a 0
- React to four discussion responses by supporting/disputing the views of others (**50-100 word limit each**)

In summary, each weekly content will include four key tasks:

1. *Watch* the lecture
2. *Read* the assigned readings
3. *Post* written responses to the discussion questions
4. *Post* your reaction to other student's discussion answer and interact with other students

Evaluation

<i>Assignment/Quiz/Exam</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Grade Breakdown</i>	
Book Critique	30	186 - 200	A
Current Ethical Issue Paper	30	180 - 185.9	A-
Ethical Debate Presentation	30	175 - 179.9	B+
Discussion Questions (5 points each)	50	167 - 174.9	B
Exams (30 points each)	60	160 - 166.9	B-
		155 - 159.9	C+
Total	200	147 - 154.9	C
		140 - 146.9	C-
		135 - 139.9	D+
		128 - 134.9	D
<i>More information on the Graduate School grading policies may be found at:</i>		119 - 127.9	D-
<i>https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/</i>		118.9 or lower	E

PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

Book Critique

Students will read and critique the assigned Maxwell (2003) book on ethics. The critique should be a thoughtful, informed response, taking into account ethical principles and sound reasoning. This is not simply a summary of the book; therefore, the critique should include only a brief paragraph of the primary thesis, purpose, and/or description of the book. The majority of the critique should include any major ethical insights communicated by the book, ideas that changed or challenged your thinking, and criticisms about the book. An explanation of the major strengths and weaknesses of the book will be included, as well as, a brief statement of recommendation and state why you would or would not recommend the book. In addition, you will include a brief statement commending that the book has been read in its entirety. If the book has not been completely read, then communicate the truth and state the estimated percentage read. (This is an ethics course.) The critique should be 4-6 pages in length. Specific assignment details and requirements will be provided via Canvas.

Current Ethical Issue Paper

Students will choose a current ethical issue in sport on which to write a paper. A topic must be submitted via the respective Canvas *Discussions* to the instructor by the “Topic for Current Ethical Issue Paper” due date and receive the instructor’s approval of the topic. (All topics must be distinctly different from the Ethical Debate Presentations.) The content of the paper should include the history of the issue, the technical background (if necessary), the state of the issue today (include a clear statement describing why this is an ethical issue and what ethical motives, means, and ends are involved), and a description of and response to opposing views on the particular ethical issue. The student should appropriately use what has been learned during the semester for evaluating ethical and moral issues in sport. The paper should be 8-10 pages in length and include at least 6 references (3 peer-reviewed). Specific assignment details and requirements will be provided via Canvas.

Ethical Debate Presentation

Students will participate in one ethical debate during the semester via the Big Blue Button on the *Conferences* link on Canvas. Instructions on how to use this software will be posted on Canvas. Students will be separated into groups depending on the size of the class and each student will be asked to defend one side of an ethical issue in sport. A topic must be submitted via email to the instructor by the “Topic for Current Ethical Issue Paper” due date and receive the instructor’s approval. Each group debate will last a total of 20 minutes which will include position statements and rebuttals for each side of the debate. The ethical debate presentation will be recorded via Big Blue Button by the due date. Students will be required to view all of the group presentations by a specific date and will be required to dispute/support the views of at least one other ethical debate via the *Discussions* link. Specific assignment details and requirements will be provided via Canvas.

Discussion Questions

There will be ten discussion questions throughout the semester. The discussion questions will pertain to both lecture and reading materials for that week. The discussion questions will be available to you and answered in the *Discussions* link via Canvas. For every week discussion questions are due, each student must answer the questions in 150-200 words in combined length by Friday and post reactions that are 50-100 words in length each to at least four other students’ posts by Sunday. For two of the discussions, the discussion questions (not reactions) must be answered by recording (not uploading) a 2-3 minute video recording via the “Record Media” icon in the *Discussions* link via Canvas. If not completed, the last two discussions will be graded as a 0.

Note: we may adjust HOW we have discussions/debates throughout the course. The instructor may reach out to the class to review possible alternative styles and means of completing this work.

Exams

There will be two exams throughout the semester. The exams will consist of 5-7 short answer questions and you will have 60 minutes to complete them. Exams will be available for a four day period via Canvas and are due by 11:59pm ET on the due date; however, you only get one opportunity to complete it. Exams are *closed* note and to be completed individually. Please make sure you use a reliable computer with a secure connection and take the exams earlier in the day in case there is an issue because we cannot be responsible for technology errors. If you do have technical difficulties, contact Learning Support Services and email me immediately with a screenshot of the issue.

SPM 5206 FALL 2024 COURSE SCHEDULE

MODULE I		
Week 1		
Watch	Sport Ethics Introduction	Wednesday, August 28
Read	Chapter 1 & Article on Canvas	Wednesday, August 28
Post	Student Introduction Video in Canvas <i>Discussions</i>	Saturday, August 31
Watch	Student Introductions	Saturday, August 31
Week 2		
Watch	Lecture 1 – Overview of Sport Ethics	Wednesday, September 4
Read	Articles on Canvas	Wednesday, September 4
Post	Discussion Question 1 Response	Friday, September 6
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, September 8
Week 3		
Watch	Lecture 2 – Ethical Theories I	Wednesday, September 11
Read	Articles on Canvas	Wednesday, September 11
Post	Discussion Question 2 Response	Friday, September 13
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, September 15
Week 4		
Watch	Lecture 3 – Ethical Theories II	Wednesday, September 18
Read	Articles on Canvas	Wednesday, September 18
Post	Discussion Question 3 Response	Friday, September 20
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, September 22
Submit	Topic for Current Ethical Issue Paper	Sunday, September 22
Week 5		
Watch	Lecture 4 – Moral Reasoning and Ethical Decision Making	Wednesday, September 25
Read	Articles on Canvas	Wednesday, September 25
Post	Discussion Question 4 Response	Friday, September 27
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, September 29
Week 6		
Watch	Lecture 5 – Sportsmanship and Gamesmanship	Wednesday, October 2
Read	Articles on Canvas & Chapter 2	Wednesday, October 2
Post	Discussion Question 5 Response	Friday, October 4
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, October 6
Week 7		
Complete	Exam 1	Wednesday, October 9
Week 8		
Submit	Current Ethical Issue Paper	Sunday, October 13

Module II		
Week 9		
Watch	Lecture 6 – Violence in Sport	Wednesday, October 16
Read	Articles on Canvas & Chapter 6	Wednesday, October 16
Post	Discussion Question 6 Response	Friday, October 18
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, October 20
Select	Teammate for Ethical Debate Presentation	Sunday, October 20
Week 10		
Watch	Lecture 7 – Ethics of Drug Use and Testing in Sport	Wednesday, October 23
Read	Articles on Canvas & Chapter 7	Wednesday, October 23
Post	Discussion Question 7 Response	Friday, October 25
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, October 27
Submit	Topic for Ethical Debate Presentation	Sunday, October 27
Week 11		
Watch	Lecture 8 – Ethical Consideration of Race in Sport	Wednesday, October 30
Read	Articles on Canvas & Chapter 8	Wednesday, October 30
Post	Discussion Question 8 Response	Friday, November 1
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, November 3
Week 12		
Watch	Lecture 9 – Ethical Consideration of Discrimination in Sport	Wednesday, November 6
Read	Articles on Canvas & Chapter 10	Wednesday, November 6
Post	Discussion Question 9 Response	Friday, November 8
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, November 10
Submit	Book Critique	Sunday, November 10
Week 13		
Watch	Lecture 10 – Ethical Consideration of Commercialization in Sport	Wednesday, November 13
Read	Articles on Canvas & Chapter 12	Wednesday, November 13
Post	Discussion Question 10 Response	Friday, November 15
Post	Reaction to Other Students' Discussion Answer	Sunday, November 17
Week 14		
Submit	Ethical Debate Presentation	Thursday, November 21
Watch	Other Group's Ethical Debate Presentations	Sunday, November 24
Post	Response to Ethical Debate Presentation	Sunday, November 24
Week 15		
Enjoy	<i>No Classes – Thanksgiving Break</i>	November 25-29
Week 16		
Complete	Exam 2	Wednesday, December 4