
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – COMMERCE
Department of Health & Human Performance

HHPS 520
Governance and Ethics in Sport

Fall 2012 – Online

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Scott Waltemyer, Ph.D.
Office: Field House 100
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Various governing agencies in sport, including those at the high school, collegiate, professional, and international levels will be studied, emphasizing investigation of the organizational structure, authority, membership, and influence of these sport governing bodies. The course will also focus on ethical and social problems in the contemporary sport industry and theoretical models available for analyzing these problems.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook (required)

Hums, M. A., & MacLean, J. C. (2009). *Governance and Policy in Sport Organizations* (2nd ed.). Scottsdale, AZ: Holcomb Hathaway. ISBN: 978-1-890871-89-5

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss and understand governance issues facing the different levels of sport; including scholastic and intercollegiate athletics, international sport, and professional sport.
2. Understand and discuss sport governing bodies; such as the NCAA and IOC.
3. Understand and discuss ethical theories, and apply them to sport and recreation.
4. Identify and investigate ethical and social issues in sport and recreation.

COURSE LAYOUT

This course will focus on two important areas related to the regulation of sport, governance and ethics. The first half of the course will focus on the governance of sport, and the differing governing bodies which regulate sport at the different levels of competition. The second half of the course will focus on ethical and social issues which face sport administrators and managers on a daily basis, and how those challenges may be met in the future.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance/participation is required. Since this is an online course, the majority of the work (Class assignments and discussions) can be done at your own pace; however, this also means submitting assignments/discussion on time! You do not have to wait until the due date to submit assignments, **you may submit them at your own leisure ON OR BEFORE the due date**, as some student prefer to complete their tasks as soon as possible.
2. **NO late assignments will be accepted, unless there is a prior arrangement between the student and instructor.**
3. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism during all class discussions. Critical thinking and debate are encouraged, but students should be respectful of their fellow classmates. All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student Handbook)
4. Students should adhere to the university policies regarding academic misconduct (i.e. plagiarism, cheating, and other dishonest representations of academic work). Students will receive a zero for the assignment, and may also be dropped from the course. Students in violation of these policies will be subject to the university's academic misconduct procedures.
5. Exams will consist of objective, as well as subjective, items. Students are expected to take each exam at the scheduled time.
6. **NO make-up exams will be given unless there is a prior arrangement or because of an excused university absence.**
7. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Because I am not physically in Commerce, if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to email or call me so that we can discuss any issues that you may have. I am more than willing to provide any additional assistance if I can help. Remember, students earn grades; I do not give them.

ADA STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students requesting accommodations for disabilities should contact the Director of Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library, Room 132, 903-886-5835.

PLAGIARISM

As commonly defined, “plagiarism” consists of the passing off of one’s own, the ideas, words, writing, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. When using another person’s ideas, words, writing, etc., you should always cite that person, giving them credit for their work. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the instructor or university handbook.

GRADING SCALE

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
0% - 59%	F

EVALUATION

Class Assignments (11 x 10 pts)	110 pts.
Class Discussion/Participation (11 x 10 pts.)	110 pts.
Governing Body Report	60 pts.
Athletic Administrator Interview	60 pts.
Ethics Debate (2 x 30 pts.)	60 pts.
Exam #1	100 pts.
Exam #2	100 pts.
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TOTAL	600 pts.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Students are responsible for obtaining all materials presented online and assigned readings. All assignments (discussion questions, class assignments/papers, exams) will be posted on eCollege. You are responsible for making sure that all weekly assignments/discussions are completed on time. For each lecture week there will be a class assignment posted under “Assignment”. Most questions will come directly from the textbook. Students are to type (Word, 12-pt. font) their response and submit it through the appropriate “Dropbox” basket (tab at top of course webpage). Please ATTACH all assignments to your Dropbox submission in Word format. If you do not have Word, please let me know. *Assignments will not be accepted through email.* There is no limit on your response, but you should answer the question completely and to the best of your ability.

All class assignments and discussion topics will be posted within their specific week (left-hand column) on eCollege.

CLASS DISCUSSIONS

Students will be responsible for participating in weekly “online discussions”. Although this is an online course, students are still required to interact with each other and this will be accomplished through class discussions. Interpersonal communication serves an important educational purpose. Each week there will be an open-ended discussion question proposed to the class. Each student is responsible for answering the question AND posting their own related question or comment to their classmates. You will then need to respond to at least one of your classmates’ posted comments or questions. Both your answer to my question AND your ability to post and answer your classmates’ questions will be taken into account when graded.

ATHLETIC GOVERNING BODY REPORT

Each student will research two international-level sport governing bodies. You will find basic organizational information for each (e.g. mission statement, organizational structure, responsibilities and duties, constitution, etc.), and then compare and contrast the two organizations. Detailed instructions will be posted under “Week 7” and in the “Doc Sharing” on eCollege (tab at top of course webpage).

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR INTERVIEW

Each student is to set up, and conduct, an interview with a athletic administrator. Try to set up a face-to-face interview, but if you are unable you may schedule a phone interview. Begin by explaining the purpose of the assignment and why you are interested in their organization. You may ask general questions about their job duties and responsibilities, BUT the majority of the interview should focus on questions related to the different governance and ethical issues that they face in their job/career. Some questions may be oriented towards finding information similar to your governing body report (i.e. sport(s), mission, organizational structure, membership information), but also ask questions related to governance issues. What other organizations do you work with? What are some current ethical and social issues for your organization (drug testing, eligibility, policy development, parental involvement, funding, etc.) These are a few of the basic questions you should inquire about, but also be creative and ask questions of your own interest. Each student will need to type (Word, 12-pt. font) their interview and submit it in the appropriate “Dropbox” basket (Week 15 Assignment). A minimum of twelve questions should be asked, and the more thorough, the better! Please type your interview in “question/answer” format, rather than essay style. Detailed instructions will be posted under “Week 15”.

You must include the name, school/organization, position/title the person holds, and their contact information.

ETHICS DEBATE

Each student will be asked to present and defend their assigned side of an ethical/social issue in the world of sport. Students should incorporate ethical theories, research and statistics, personal experience, and other creative thinking to argue their side. Arguments which rely too heavily on personal experience will be graded lower; therefore, you will need to do some research on the topic. More details will be presented during the semester, and instructions for the debate will be posted under “Week 14” and the “Doc Sharing” on eCollege (tab at top of course webpage).

EXAMS

Exams will be essay style. Exam questions will be posted under “Assignment” for the corresponding week (Exam #1 – Week 7, Exam #2 – Week 15). Each student will need to type (Word, 12-pt. font) their answers to each exam question and submit their exam in the appropriate “Dropbox” basket (similar to weekly assignments). Again, there is no limit to answer length, but you should answer each question completely and to the best of your ability. Due dates are posted under the class schedule (see below) and will be posted with the questions.

No late or make-up exams will be accepted UNLESS prior arrangements have been made with myself or there is a verifiable university excuse

All PowerPoint lecture notes and other information will be made available under the “Doc Sharing” tab at the top of the course webpage

COURSE SCHEDULE

Module One – Governance and Policy in Sport

- Week 1 Intro to the Course, Questions and Concerns
Class Assignment and Discussion #1 on eCollege
Due: Monday, September 3rd by 12:00pm (noon)
- Week 2 Sport Governance and Policy (Hums Ch. 1, 3)
Class Assignment and Discussion #2
Due: Monday, September 10th by noon
- Week 3 Amateur and Scholastic Sport (Hums Ch. 5 & 6)
Class Assignment and Discussion #3
Due: Monday, September 17th by noon
- Week 4 Intercollegiate Athletics (Hums Ch. 8)
Class Assignment and Discussion #4
Due: Monday, September 24th by noon
- Week 5 International Sport and the Olympics (Hums Ch. 9 & 10)
Class Assignment and Discussion #5
Due: Monday, October 1st by noon
- Week 6 Professional Sport (Hums Ch. 12 & 13)
Class Assignment and Discussion #6
Due: Monday, October 8th by noon

Week 7 *Governing Body Report Due – Monday, October 15th by noon*
(Submit to Week 7 Assignment Dropbox)

Exam #1 – Midterm – Due on or before Monday, October 15th by noon
(Submit to Week 7 Assignment Dropbox)

Module Two – Ethical and Social Issues in Sport

Week 8 What are Ethics? Understanding Ethical Theories
Class Assignment and Discussion #7
Due: Monday, October 22nd by noon

Week 9 Ethics and Morality in Sport Management
Class Assignment and Discussion #8
Due: Monday, October 29th by noon

Week 10 Ethical and Social Issues in Sport
Class Assignment and Discussion #9
Due: Monday, November 5th by noon

Week 11 Ethical and Social Issues in Sport
Class Assignment and Discussion #10
Due: Monday, November 12th by noon

Week 12 Applying Ethical Theories to Sport
Class Assignment and Discussion #11
Due: Monday, November 19th by noon

Week 13 ***THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS***

Week 14 ***Ethics Debate – TBA***
All debates will occur during the 14th week of class (Nov. 26 – Nov. 30) and details about
debate/discussion format will be posted under “Week 14” Discussions.

Week 15 *Athletic Administrator Interview Due on or before – Monday, December 3rd by Noon*
(Submit to Week 15 Assignment Dropbox)

Week 16 ***Exam #2 – Final*** – Due on or before Monday, December 10th by Noon
(Submit to Week 15 Assignment Dropbox)