

# **Ethical Issues in Sport**

## **SPM3204 Section 1604 (3 credits)**

### **Spring 2020 Course Syllabus**

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

##### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Emily Plunkett, M.S.

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Phone: 352-294-2200

Office Hours: Mondays 1-3 p.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m.

##### **Class Information**

The course meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. in Weimer Room 1084.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Offering an applied and industry-focused approach, this course explores ethical issues in sport. The course provides a theoretical overview of ethics, justice, and moral development and requires students to evaluate their own morals, values, and principles. Students will learn to identify current ethical dilemmas facing the sport management industry. Students will practice ethical decision making and moral reasoning through case studies that require students to take on the role of sport practitioners facing ethical dilemmas in various different sectors of youth, college, and professional sport.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify key ethical issues facing primary sectors of the modern sport industry
- Apply teleological and deontological theories to ethical dilemmas in sport
- Develop a personal philosophy of ethics, morals, and values
- Evaluate conflicting sides of ethical issues to form logical arguments
- Assemble research on relevant past ethical choices in sport when faced with an ethical decision
- Communicate rationale for ethical decisions clearly
- Utilize decision-making models and moral reasoning strategies to brainstorm solutions and responses to sport case studies and ethical issues
- Defend arguments in a respectful and persuasive manner when engaging in ethical debate

## **TEXTBOOKS**

There are no required textbooks for this course, but students will be expected to read course material posted to the Canvas website.

## **COURSE WEBSITE**

All course material, readings, assignment instructions, and grades will be posted on the Canvas course website, <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>. Students will be expected to check the course website regularly and submit all assignments through Canvas. All course communication will either occur through the course website or through students' UFL email.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Attendance, Makeup and Late Policy**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and remain for the entire class session. Students will be graded on both attendance and participation, and points will be deducted for lateness, unexcused absences and failure to participate in in-class activities and discussions. Students are strongly encouraged to alert the instructor in advance if they will be absent or late.

If alternative arrangements are not made in advance, students are permitted to submit assignments up to three days late for point deductions. Assignments submitted one day after the due date will receive a 20% deduction for late submission, assignments submitted two days after the due date will receive a 25% deduction for late submission, and assignments submitted three days after the due date will receive a 30% deduction for late submission.

The instructor understands that unexpected situations may arise throughout the semester that may impede a student's ability to attend a class or submit an assignment on time. In the event this occurs, students are strongly encouraged to communicate with the instructor. The instructor would like to help you and is willing to assist should an incident arise but can't modify deadlines or excuse absences if unaware of the circumstances.

### **Assignment Submissions**

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments submitted on Canvas should adhere to APA formatting. (Abstract pages are not required.) Assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font.

## **Course Conduct**

Students are expected to bring paper and pens or pencils to class daily for various in-class activities. Phones and laptops are permitted, as students may be invited to research information for case studies and in-class activities. However, these devices are only allowed to be used for course purposes during times explicitly specified by the instructor. Failure to be actively engaged in lectures, discussions, and activities will impact students' participation grades.

Throughout the semester, students will be asked to review course material posted to the Canvas site prior to arriving the class. This may include articles, videos, and podcasts. Students are expected to fully complete the review of these items prior to arriving to class and should be prepared to engage in discussion about the material.

Due to the nature of this course, questions will be asked that prompt various opinions. Students are encouraged to debate and disagree with one another, but it is crucial they remain respectful of their classmates at all times and always communicate their ideas courteously.

## **Honor Code Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "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 to the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

## **Disability Resource Center**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

*(Detailed instructions for each assignment are available on the Canvas website.)*

### **Projects – 350 points**

- **Personal Ethics Philosophy** – 100 points – After learning about the different ethical theories and decision-making models, as well as discussing values, morals and principles, students will be expected to write their own personal philosophy of ethics. They will also write about the state of ethics in the industry segment they are interested in pursuing as a career.
- **Ethics Interview** – 150 points – Students will identify a sport management professional working in the sport industry (ideally in the industry segment they are interested in pursuing). The student will interview the individual about an ethical issue the individual or his/her organization faced. A reflection paper will summarize the dilemma and response and provide the student's reaction.
- **Debate Video & Discussion Post** – 100 points – Students will work with a partner to create a video debating an ethical issue in sport. Videos will be posted to a discussion board, and a portion of the grade will include commenting on classmates' videos.

### **Assignments – 200 points**

- **Current Events Discussion** – 50 points – Each student will be responsible for leading a short (5 minute) discussion about a current event pertaining to sport ethics. Students will submit an analysis in advance that explains the event and connects it to class material. Students will present a brief summary of the situation and lead the class discussion with prepared questions.
- **Ethical Dilemma Analysis** – 150 points – Students will identify an ethical dilemma in sport (to be approved by the instructor in advance). Students will be required to research the dilemma, provide context of similar past ethical dilemmas and write arguments supporting both sides.

### **Tests & Quizzes – 250 points**

- **Test** – 100 points (2 X 50 points) – Students will take one test assessing the theoretical component and one assessing the applied component of the class.
- **Quizzes** – 150 points (5 X 30 points) – There will be five online quizzes throughout the semester primarily focused on out-of-class content posted on Canvas (readings, podcasts, videos, etc.)

### **Case Studies – 100 points**

- (10 X 10 points) – Students will apply decision-making models and ethical theories to case studies throughout the semester. There will be a total of 10 case studies, and most will occur in class.

### **Participation – 100 points**

- Students will be graded based on attendance, timeliness, contribution to group discussion, and participation in in-class activities. This course will be very interactive, so students are expected to arrive with all assigned homework material completed and be prepared to engage with discussion and activities.

- Students will be given mini-quizzes at the beginning of each class reviewing the previous day's content. Answers will be reviewed in class and the quizzes will be graded based on completion. However, extra credit points may occasionally be awarded for accuracy, so students are encouraged to review the previous day's content prior to arriving for class. Students who arrive late to class will not be allowed to submit the mini-quizzes, and students who leave before the class period is complete will not receive credit for the quizzes either.

### Grading Summary

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Projects	350	35%
Assignments	200	20%
Tests & Quizzes	250	25%
Case Studies	100	10%
Participation	100	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	93-100%	930-1,000
A-	90-92.9%	900-929
B+	87-89.9%	870-899
B	83-86.9%	830-869
B-	80-82.9%	800-829
C+	77-79.9%	770-799
C	73-76.9%	730-769
C-	70-72.9%	700-729
D+	67-69.9%	670-699
D	60-66.9%	600-669
F	59.9% or lower	599 or less

An explanation of UF grade points can be viewed here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

### ADDITIONAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

#### UF Computing Help Desk

For students needing technical assistance, please visit <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> or call 352-392-4357.

#### Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact the UF Counseling Center at 352-392-1575 or visit

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/> for more information. For emergencies, call 911.

## U Matter, We Care

For individuals or friends in distress, please email [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or call 352 392-1575 for assistance.

## University Police Department

UPD can be reached at 352-392-1111 or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>. For emergencies, please dial 911.

## TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1	Jan. 6	Course Introduction & Syllabus Review	
	Jan. 8	Why Sport Ethics? A History & Introduction	
	Jan. 10		
Week 2	Jan. 13	Theoretical Foundations: Theories of Ethics & Moral Development	
	Jan. 15		
	Jan. 17		
Week 3	Jan. 20	<i>No Class – Holiday</i>	
	Jan. 22	Ethical Decision Making & Moral Reasoning	
	Jan. 24		
Week 4	Jan. 27	Ethical Issues in Sport Marketing, Branding & Sponsorship <b>Case Study #1</b>	<b>Test #1 due Jan. 28</b>
	Jan. 29		
	Jan. 31		
Week 5	Feb. 3	Ethical Issues in Sport Media & Communications <b>Case Study #2</b>	<b>Ethical Dilemma Analysis topic due Feb. 4</b>
	Feb. 5		
	Feb. 7		
Week 6	Feb. 10	Ethical Issues in Sport Finance & Sales <b>Case Study #3</b>	<b>Ethical Dilemma Analysis due Feb. 13</b>
	Feb. 12		
	Feb. 14		
Week 7	Feb. 17	Ethical Issues in Sport Facilities, Events & Operations <b>Case Study #4</b>	<b>Quiz #1 due Feb. 20</b>
	Feb. 19		
	Feb. 21		
Week 8	Feb. 24	Ethical Issues in Sport Governance, Policy & Law <b>Case Study #5</b>	
	Feb. 26		
	Feb. 28		
Week 9	Mar. 2	<b>No Class - Spring Break</b>	
	Mar. 4		
	Mar. 6		
Week 10	Mar. 9	Ethical Issues in Athletic Academic Support Services <b>Case Study #6</b>	
	Mar. 11		<b>Quiz #2 due Mar. 12</b>
	Mar. 13		

Week 11	Mar. 16	Ethical Issues in Management, Leadership & Coaching <b>Case Study #7</b>	<b>Interview Topic due Mar. 17</b>
	Mar. 18		<b>Quiz #3 due Mar. 19</b>
	Mar. 20		
Week 12	Mar. 23	Ethical Issues in Sport Medicine, Training & Health <b>Case Study #8</b>	
	Mar. 25		<b>Ethics Interview due Mar. 26</b>
	Mar. 27		
Week 13	Mar. 30	Ethical Issues in College Sport	
	Apr. 1		<b>Quiz #4 due Apr. 2</b>
	Apr. 3		
Week 14	Apr. 6	Ethical Issues in Youth Sport <b>Case Study #9</b>	
	Apr. 8		<b>Quiz #5 due Apr. 9</b>
	Apr. 10		
Week 15	Apr. 13	Ethical Issues in Professional, Olympic & International Sport <b>Case Study #10</b>	
	Apr. 15		<b>Debate &amp; Discussion due Apr. 16</b>
	Apr. 17		
Week 16	Apr. 20	Integrating Theory & Practice	<b>Test #2 due Apr. 21</b>
	Apr. 22	Course Reflection	
Exam Week	Apr. 25 - May 1	<i>No Class – Exam Week</i>	<b>Personal Ethics Philosophy due Apr. 28</b>

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and schedule as the class progresses and circumstances arise. Students will be given ample notice of any changes.*

### **Copyright Statement**

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