



**College of Natural & Health Sciences
School of Sport & Exercise Science**

**SES 560 – Critical Thinking and Ethical Considerations in Sport Administration (3 credits)
Summer 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Brent D. Oja
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Class Meetings: Online
Office Hours: By Appt.

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Course Text and Readings:

1. Benedict, J., & Keteyian, A. (2013). *The System: The Glory and Scandal of Big-Time College Football*. New York, NY: Doubleday.
2. Callahan, D. (2004). *The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, Inc.
3. Bass, J.R., Schaeperkoetter, C.C., & Bunds, K.S. (2015). *The “Front Porch”: Examining the Increasing Interconnection of University and Athletic Department Funding*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
4. Additional readings (required and elective) will be available on Canvas.

Sport Administration Research Guide: <http://libguides.unco.edu/SportAdmin>

Current Events: Regular reading of national news and is important for an awareness of the current climate regarding ethical issues in sport organizations. Online and/or print versions of *USA Today*, *the Sports Business Journal*, *Business Week*, *Forbes*, *Athletic Business*, *the Denver Post/Rocky Mountain News*, and *the Wall Street Journal* are recommended because of their excellent coverage.

Course Description: An exploration of major issues, ethical theories, and moral reasoning and their impact on the operation of programs in sport, physical education, fitness, athletics and recreation.

Course Purpose: Do you enjoy discussing and debating current moral and ethical dilemmas in the sport environment? This course is designed to provide you with a forum to voice your thoughts and educated opinions on such matters. The course offers an opportunity to learn about controversial circumstances in sport and possible options to respond to those circumstances. The purpose of this course is for you to challenge your own beliefs and opinions with various content from the course. As a result, you will be able to critically analyze difficult ethical and moral situations that await you in your professional career.

Class Format and Expectations: Throughout the delivery of the course a variety of methods to stimulate students’ intellectual curiosity and critical thinking skills will be used, including readings, power points, discussion, exercises, and individual and small team projects. Students are expected to be active participants in the learning process. Assignments will be largely devoted to discussing the assigned readings and completing activities associated with the current topic. Participation is **MANDATORY!**

I expect that you will take ownership of your learning, complete all of the course readings and reflect on the application of these readings to your current or future job. I expect that you will

master the material, as well as how it is (or could be) applied to the sport industry. I also expect you to ask questions in a timely fashion and to submit your assignments on time. Late assignments will receive a **ZERO** unless permission is granted beforehand. I also expect you to be familiar with the course syllabus and schedule, which includes my contact information and office hours, required readings, learning outcomes, course requirements and evaluation, and course policies.

Library Utilization: Students are encouraged to use the Michener Library and The Source (online library catalog) to supplement assigned readings and to complete assignments. The Source provides access to the catalogs of several research libraries, the UnCover serials database, and several information databases. The Source can be accessed from all computer stations located in NHS and across campus. SBRNet (Sports Business Research Notebook), Business Periodicals Index, Infotrac General Businessfile ASAP, First Search's ABI, and Dialog@CARL are also good sources for identifying information related to the sport industry. I highly suggest utilizing Google Scholar. Note: links to the Source and all databases are found via the online Sport Administration Research Guide.

Course Objectives: Upon satisfactory completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize and apply a plethora of ethical concepts and ideals.
2. Evaluate various ethical issues affecting the sport industry.
3. Demonstrate how values and morals are utilized in the sport industry.
4. Develop a personal ethical philosophy towards the management of sport organizations.
5. Utilize critical thinking skills when faced with an ethical dilemma.

Course Requirements and Expectations:

1. Regular participation is expected. Participation is part of the academic requirement of a course and reflects a commitment to your academic career. **If you are absent from participating for any reason, you are expected to check with other students to find out about class material and/or assignments. Absence is not an excuse for missing work.**
2. Class participation is demonstrated by being prepared to discuss the assigned readings (and other course materials) in a thoughtful and detailed manner. Peer interactions enhance the development of listening, analytical and critical thinking skills. Class discussion via online participation expands one's knowledge and often compels one to embrace another's perspective. Students are expected to ask questions and participate in class discussions online.
3. Thoughtful completion of all assignments, examinations, and projects. **All work must be the original work of the student, developed specifically for this class.** Students should plan to complete their assignments on time. Late assignments will receive a **ZERO** unless previous permission is granted.

Additional Class Information:

1. Because debates simulate "real world" sport organization practice, they are a valuable learning strategy. The debates demand that you prepare ahead of the due date.
2. After assignments are returned, if you wish, you have three working days to arrange an appointment/phone call to discuss the evaluation.

Assessment: Foremost in the determination of the final grade is the *preparation, quality,* and *comprehensiveness* of your work, as well as your participation in class discussion. Points and grades will be *earned*, not *given*. Grades will be calculated on a point basis. This is directly related to percentages, which are determined by computing points earned out of total points possible (refer to assignment weighting below). Per the University of Northern Colorado’s grading scale: *A: 90.00%+; B: 89.99-80.00%; C: 79.99-70.00%; D: 69.99-60.00%; F: 60.00>*. From a point basis: *A: 450+; B: 400+; C: 350+; D: 300+; F: 300>*.

Assignments and Weighting:

Discussion/Padlet Posts	100
Presentation	100
Response Papers 2 @ 25 per Paper	50
Debates 3 @ 50 per Debate	150
Final Paper	100
Total	500

Discussion/Padlet Posts: This is a chance for you to interact with your fellow students. I ask that you provide a thoughtful response to the provided prompt. You will be placed in groups and the discussion posts will stay within your group. I also ask that you respond to at least two of your classmates’ posts with thoughtful comments. What I would like to see from discussion posts are thoughtfulness and effort. If you put the work in you will be rewarded.

Presentation: Each student will present on an ethical dilemma that they have either experienced or are interested in. The presentation should be factual in nature. Present past and contemporary facts/circumstances and provide possible improvements or solutions. Students are encouraged to bring creativity to their presentations. Critical-thinking skills should be demonstrated with this presentation – unique and creative solutions/improvements to complex problems will be rewarded. The presentation may be used as preparation for the final paper.

Response Papers: Students will write two (2) two to four page response papers. These papers will consist of both assigned readings and popular press articles. The goal of each response paper is for you to demonstrate your understanding of the ethical topic and then relate the topic to your career. These papers should NOT be a recap of discussions from your group. It is strongly suggested that you review my feedback to you after each response paper. My expectations for your work will increase with each paper. The topics for the response papers are Youth Sport and College Sport.

Debates: Students will be put into small groups and will face off against another group. One group will be “for” and the other “against” a previously provided circumstance. Students will be graded based upon their preparedness, thoughtfulness, respect, and the “winner” of the debate will receive more points than the other group.

Final Paper: The Final Paper will require students to choose an ethical dilemma in sport and apply the knowledge they have acquired from the course to critically analyze the situation. This paper will require research outside of the classroom materials. The paper is expected to be six (6) to eight (8) pages in length. This is only a guideline. The paper’s *quality* will be judged more than quantity.

Honor Code: All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

Plagiarism and Cheating: It is expected that you familiarize yourself with the use of authority, and that ideas taken from articles, books, etc., will be properly noted in all papers submitted. It is important to remember that to copy or liberally paraphrase someone else's work without proper attribution is plagiarism. Unless otherwise instructed by the teacher, all work should be formatted using APA (6th ed.) style. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the proper guidelines for referencing material used in your work.

Academic Misconduct Policy: In accordance with university policy, instances of cheating on examinations, plagiarism, or other offenses that violate rules of fair conduct will be reported to the committee on academic misconduct for investigation. Sport Administration students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, illegitimate possession and disposition of examinations or projects, and similar acts or the attempt to engage in such acts are grounds for disciplinary action. This action can include the following in addition to any University disciplinary action:

1. A zero for the assignment.
2. A failing grade for the course.
3. Expulsion from the UNC Sport Administration program.

UNC Disability Resources: It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Support Services (DSS) to request accommodations. Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80. Students can learn more about the accommodation process at <http://www.unco.edu/disability-support-services/>

****THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OR ALTER THIS SYLLABUS AT ANY POINT DURING THE SEMESTER. STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY CHANGES****