

KNES 4553 Law & Ethics in Recreation, Leisure, & Sport

Course Syllabus Spring 2026

Dr. Julie Wood

Contact Information

- Office: Bridwell 322
- Hours: 10:30-12:00 TR, 10:00-12:00 W; Anytime the office is open or by appointment.
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Contact Preference

My preferred method of communication is by email. I check my email throughout the day (MTWRF), so you can expect to hear back from me usually within a few hours of receiving your message. I generally do not respond during the evening hours or over the weekend. If you should call and leave a message, I would appreciate it if you would also send me an email as I most often do not pay attention to the phone.

Course Description

This course will familiarize students with the legal and ethical issues surrounding recreation, leisure, and the sport industry. In addition, the course will assist students in self-evaluating and examining the basic philosophical issues concerning ethics and moral reasoning and develop an ethical decision-making process.

Textbook

Champion, W.T., Karcher, R.T., & Ruddell, L.S. (2020). Sports Ethics for Sports Management Professionals (2nd ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of legal issues in sport management.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of current ethical and moral issues facing professionals in sport management.
3. Students will discuss standards of conduct expected of sport management professionals.

Course Essentials

Syllabus

The syllabus provides general information about the course, assignment expectations and requirements, and assessment information.

Course Calendar

The course calendar is the road map for this course. The course calendar identifies: (1) the topics to be studied, (2) the assessment activities to be completed, and (3) the completion dates for the assessments.

Textbook

The textbook is required for this course. The authors are leading scholars in the field, the research is current, and examples and discussion relevant.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

This course is supplemented by the MSU Texas online platform D2L. Each student is expected to be familiar with this platform. Course materials are posted on D2L, and assignments are submitted through online drop boxes. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Texas Homepage.

Content Folders

The content for this course is organized into folders on D2L. The folders are listed in the course browser or can be located by clicking on the content icon on the course homepage.

Assessment

Weekly Assignments

Six weekly assignments are required that give students an opportunity to apply concepts and principles to various situations. Weekly assignments are worth 50 points each. Assignments must be submitted through the appropriate D2L drop box.

- Total Points: 300 points
- Percent of Final Grade: 75%

Topic Paper

A topic paper is required that serves as a final assessment. The topic paper gives students an opportunity to research a topic of interest related to the intent of the course. Expectations for the paper are in the topic paper folder on D2L.

- Total Points: 100 points
- Percent of Final Grade: 25%

Student Expectations

Course Content

Students are responsible for reading assigned material.

Assignment Responses

Unless otherwise noted, it is expected that assignment responses correspond to information presented in the text.

Scholarly Research

Students are responsible for locating scholarly material through the MSU library or other online scholarly sources when needed to complete the midterm and final topic papers.

Plagiarism

Students are expected to submit original work. Please do not copy the work of others without providing proper citations.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

If you should choose to use AI tools to complete your assignments, please be sure to indicate the tool you used at the end of the assignment.

Writing Conventions

Written assignments should be double spaced using 12-point font. Copying and pasting information is not acceptable.

Citations and References

When references are requested, citations and reference information should be complete and formatted following APA guidelines. The APA manual 7th edition can be found online at [Purdue Owl APA](#) or [American Psychological Association](#).

Assignment Submission

Be sure to submit the correct document to the assignment drop box. Submitting incorrect or blank documents will result in a grade of zero until the correct document is submitted.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted through the last week of the semester. A grade of zero will be recorded until the assignment is completed.

Resubmissions

There are no redoes for assignments.

Extra Credit

There are no opportunities for extra credit.

Questions

Please stop by the office or contact me via email if you have questions about the class or an assignment.

Assessment

Assignments, Points, Due Dates

Assignments	Points	Due Date
Ethical Concepts	50	Friday January 23
Sportsmanship	50	Friday January 30
Gambling	50	Friday February 6
Coaching Ethics	50	Friday February 13
Parents & Fans	50	Friday February 20
Sports Media	50	Friday February 27
Topic Paper	100	Friday March 6
Total Points Possible	400	

Final Grade Determination

Grade	Points	Percent
A	360-400	90-100
B	320-359	80-89
C	280-319	70-79
D	240-279	60-69
F	000-239	00-59