



# **EAST TEXAS A&M**

## UNIVERSITY

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN PERFORMANCE COURSE SYLLABUS SUMMER II 2025**

#### **HHPS 397-01B CURRENT RESEARCH IN PROFESSIONAL SPORT**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| COURSE VALUE:    | Three (3) credit hours   |
| COURSE LOCATION: | Web-based  |
| PROFESSOR:       | Dr. Brandy Runyan  |
| OFFICE:          | Nursing & Health Sciences Building, NHS 141  |
| OFFICE HOURS:    | M/W/F 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM  |
| PHONE:           | (903) 886-5308   |
| EMAIL:           | <a href="mailto:Brandy.Runyan@tamuc.edu">Brandy.Runyan@tamuc.edu</a>                             |
| REQUIRED TEXT:   | No required textbook for this class BUT do keep up-to-date with sports news and journal articles |

#### **Course Description**

This immersive summer course explores cutting-edge research shaping the world of professional sports today. From performance science and mental health to business innovations and sociocultural impact, students will critically examine contemporary studies, case analyses, and real-world applications influencing the athlete experience, organizational decision-making, and sport as a global industry. Through interactive discussions, guest speakers, and project-based learning, students will gain insight into how academic research intersects with the evolving landscape of professional athletics.

#### **Course Objectives**

1. By the end of this course, students will be able to:
2. Identify and analyze current research topics relevant to various aspects of professional sports.
3. Critically evaluate peer-reviewed studies and real-world applications in athlete performance, mental health, and sports business.
4. Explore the role of professional athletes and sport organizations in addressing social, ethical, and global issues.
5. Synthesize findings from multiple sources to form evidence-based opinions on current trends and controversies in professional sports.

6. Develop communication skills through written, visual, or oral presentation formats reflecting an understanding of current sport research.
7. Engage with guest speakers and practitioner insights to connect academic theory with professional practice.

## **Course Requirements**

- This class is taught in an online format and online participation is required.
- All assignments will be completed and/or uploaded into D2L (including exams) according to the timelines listed in this syllabus.

## **Student Responsibilities & Tips for Success in the Course**

- Students will be required to log into the class **daily** to keep up with activities, lectures, and assignments.
- **All assignments, quizzes, and participation are due each week on Sundays by 11:59 PM unless otherwise noted in the course schedule (pay close attention to the last two weeks of this course as deadlines may be sooner than Sundays!)**
- Students should **check their email daily** to ensure they do not miss important messages or instructions pertaining to this course. The instructor will not be responsible for information the student failed to receive due to not checking their email and student announcements in D2L.
- Students should read ahead in order to have the best opportunity to understand concepts presented in class.
- Reminder about APA: You are expected to produce quality, original work as part of your course requirements. Please note that all assignments must adhere to APA 7th Edition, including cover page, references pages, as well as the totality of the internal matter of your written works.
- Students must thoroughly review the Course Policies and adhere to them throughout the course

## **Weekly Breakdown & Assignments**

### **Week 1: Sport Science, Performance & Recovery**

**Topics:** Wearable tech, load management, injury prevention, recovery science

**Activities:** Article review, short videos, asynchronous discussion

**Assignment:** Video/Audio Reflection (2–3 min) on a current innovation in athlete performance science

**Points:** 10 pts

### **Week 2: Mental Health, Identity, and Athlete Psychology**

**Topics:** Mental health research, identity, anxiety, team support systems

**Activities:** Case studies, TED Talk-style videos, discussion board

**Assignment:** Canva Poster summarizing a recent mental health study or initiative in pro sport

**Points:** 20 pts

### **Week 3: Sport Business, Branding, NIL, and Media**

**Topics:** NIL trends, fan engagement research, athlete media presence, sponsorships

**Activities:** Athlete case analysis, sports marketing clips, online discussion

**Assignment:** Canva Project: Create an Athlete Brand Strategy one-pager based on research and creativity

**Points:** 20 pts

### **Week 4: Social Issues, Ethics, and Future of Sport**

**Topics:** Athlete activism, sportwashing, doping, sustainability, DEI

**Activities:** Mini-debate forum, documentary clips, peer project reviews

**Assignment:** Final Research Presentation (Video or Slide Deck) on a current issue in pro sport (5–7 min)

**Points:** 30 pts

### **Ongoing Participation**

**Activities:** Weekly discussion boards and engagement (respond to 2+ peers)

**Points:** 10 pts total (2.5 pts/week)

### **Summary of Assignments and Assessments**

| Assignments                                       | # of<br>Assignments | Individual<br>Weight | Total<br>Points |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Video or Audio Reflections                        | 1                   | 10 pts               | 10 pts          |
| Canva Poster (Mental Health)                      | 1                   | 20 pts               | 20 pts          |
| Canva Project (Athlete Branding)                  | 1                   | 20 pts               | 20 pts          |
| Final Research Presentation (Video or Slide Deck) | 1                   | 30 pts               | 30 pts          |
| Participation (Discussion & Peer Feedback)        | 4                   | 2.5 pts/week         | 10 pts          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                      | —                   | —                    | <b>100 pts</b>  |

\*Please note that this schedule is tentative and is subject to change. Also, this is NOT all-inclusive (i.e., Homework/Participation). Other assignments might be given throughout the semester, so you MUST check the class announcements and e-mail frequently.

## **Communication & Support**

The best way to reach me is via email ([Brandy.Runyan@tamuc.edu](mailto:Brandy.Runyan@tamuc.edu)) as I check it frequently. When emailing me, please include your First & Last Name along with the class name! I will aim to reply with 24 hours to your MyLeo email address. Please be courteous and professional in all of your interactions with me and fellow students.

### **D2L Brightspace**

#### ***Browser support***

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

#### ***Desktop Support***

| <b>Browser</b>                | <b>Supported Browser Version(s)</b> | <b>Maintenance Browser Version(s)</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Microsoft® Edge               | Latest                              | N/A                                   |
| Microsoft® Internet Explorer® | N/A                                 | 11                                    |
| Mozilla® Firefox®             | Latest, ESR                         | N/A                                   |
| Google® Chrome™               | Latest                              | N/A                                   |
| Apple® Safari®                | Latest                              | N/A                                   |

### ***Tablet and Mobile Support***

| <b>Device</b> | <b>Operating System</b> | <b>Browser</b>              | <b>Supported Browser Version(s)</b>  |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Android™      | Android 4.4+            | Chrome                      | Latest   |
| Apple         | iOS®                    | Safari,<br>Chrome           | The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser. |
| Windows       | Windows 10              | Edge,<br>Chrome,<br>Firefox | Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.   |

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:20
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions *8 Mbps* is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)  
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - o [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - o [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
  - o [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
  - o [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

### ***ACCESS AND NAVIGATION***

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### ***COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT***

#### ***Brightspace Support***

##### ***Need Help?***

##### ***Student Support***

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

##### ***Technical Support***



If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "[click here](#)" to submit an issue via email.

##### ***System Maintenance***

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

### ***Course & University Procedures/Policies***

#### ***Class Participation***

Systematic and timely on-line participation is expected. University policy notes that excused absences include (i) participation in an authorized university activity, (ii) illness verified by a physician, (iii) death in the immediate family, and (iv) verifiable, official court appearance.

### **Respect Differing Views**

As with all courses, this course deals with ideas. Please be respectful of individuals with ideas and beliefs that differ from your own. If you disagree with someone then ask them why they believe as they do, and then listen to the answer. People can have complex reasoning for what is seen as, on the surface, a simple idea. Only civil and even tempered discussions will be permitted in class.

### **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism within an assignment will result in a failing grade for that assignment. I expect all assignments for this course to be original works produced specifically for this course. Work produced, whether in part or in whole, from assignments for other courses will not be accepted for credit.

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments will lose one letter grade (10%) per day late. The measurement of days ends at 11:59pm the following day of class. A new day begins at Midnight (12 am) and continues to 11:59 pm.

### **Examination Policy**

Exams are timed but they are open book.

### **Religious Holidays Policy**

Reasonable accommodation will be given to students who require homework extensions because of religious holidays. However, your best option is to complete the required work early so as to avoid any issues.

### **Dropping the Class**

If you need to adjust your schedule by dropping this course, please follow university procedures to officially drop the class. If you fail to officially drop the class, a failing grade shall be assigned at the end of the course. Incompletes: Per university policy is granted only for circumstances beyond student's control which prevented the student from attending classes during Finals Week or the preceding three weeks (Policy A 12.07, 1998). The extension cannot exceed one semester. Failure to fulfill plan requirements within the specified time will result in an F.

### **Course Communication**

Course communication will occur through your MyLeo Account. You will need to regularly and systematically review your e-mail on a timely basis.

### **Writing Center**

Students are encouraged to visit the A&M-Commerce Writing Center for writing assistance. Visit the website at:

<http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>

### **Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### ***University Specific Procedures***

#### **Students with Disabilities**

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. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

Student Disability Resources & Services

### **Student Conduct**



All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

### **Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

