

**School of Kinesiology
Faculty of Health Studies
Western University
Strategy and Tactics in Sport
Kinesiology 4409B**

2017 (Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. Eric Buckolz
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Office Hours: upon request

Location: Spencer Engineering 2202
Lectures: MWF, 1:30-2:20

Calendar Description: Sport strategy and tactics are examined from the point of view of 'control', focusing upon the notions of controlling force, time, space, uncertainty, one's adversary and one's self. An effort is made to explain the scientific bases for various tactics (when appropriate) and to show communality of tactics utilized among different sports. 3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

Anti-requisite(s)!Pre-requisite(s)!Co-requisite(s):

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course pre-requisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of a prerequisite or the completion of an anti-requisite cannot be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed..

Cell Phones, Pagers, Text-messaging Devices

The use of all of these technical devices during class time is **not permitted (no texting, no conversations)** due to their disruptive nature to classmates (also see #7 under Course/University Policies heading) and because such behavior is somewhat ill-mannered. If the use of a cell phone is deemed necessary because of an emergency, you can leave the room and return when you are finished, if appropriate. Furthermore, the reading of newspapers and the like during class is similarly deemed to be disruptive and ill-mannered and so inappropriate. Failure to comply with these stipulations will, at the discretion of the course instructor, result in your final grade being reduced (1% for the first infraction, 2% for the second infraction and so on).

Course Format

All classes are lecture in style and the active participation of all students is expected. **NOTE — the assumption made by the instructor in presenting class material is that that the individuals registered in this class have a general level of understanding of sport (or of selected sports).**

ALSO, the information presented in class will principally use 'overheads' and not power point. If you dislike this delivery method, you should not take this class.

Furthermore, notes will NOT be presented on OWL, however, extensive hand outs are provided. A given handout is brought to class twice on successive teaching days. If you have not picked up the overhead by then, you must come to my office to obtain one or get one from a classmate.

Recommended Text

There is no course text book.

Learning Objectives

Gain some insight into the fact that certain sport tactics that apply to various sports.

Required Course Material

Will be discussed and/or handed out in class.

Course Evaluation Summary

1. **Mid-term (40%):** occurs after approximately 5 weeks of classes, the exact time will be voted on during class. Format of the test is short answer and will likely contain some multiple choice questions.
There are NO mid-term make-up tests. If you have an acceptable reason for missing the mid-term, your final exam will be worth 100%.
2. **Final Exam (60%):** the final exam includes questions dealing with the course material covered since the mid-term. Furthermore, in addition, up to 10% of the grades awarded on the final exam can come from mid-term material, a value that can be zero. Again, the format will be short to longer answer questions. Some multiple questions may be included as well. Details in this regard will be made clear as the final exam time approaches.

Evaluation Format for Test/Final Examination

Tentative Schedule: the number of lectures required for each topic will depend upon how quickly things proceed during a given class and so the number of days spent per topic cannot be specified in advance. Nonetheless, the order of topics will be as follows, unless it is deemed appropriate to alter this order, and/or to add an unintended topic or so.

[1] Introduction

(i) control

(ii) concealing intentions

[2] Attrition (types, goals, attributes needed for application)

[3] Four Options

- GO, DENY, EXPLOIT, PREVENT

[4] Controlling Time

- (i) Expectancy
- (ii) Unpredictability
- (iii) Time Pressure
 - objectives
 - error types
 - speed/accuracy trade-off (practice effect)
 - combating time pressure
 - time pressure vulnerabilities/compensations
 - predictability

[5] Controlling Uncertainty

- (i) Information Theory
- (ii) Choice reaction time and uncertainty
- (iii) Speed/accuracy curve
- (iv) Effect of practice on (ii) and (iii)
- (iii) offense control of uncertainty
 - defense control of uncertainty
- (iii) Optimizing uncertainty

[6] Controlling Space

- (i) Types of space
- (ii) Deception
 - (a) intentional deception:
 - aims of deception
 - prediction outcome effect implications for achieving deception aims - advance cues
 - a skill to-be-learned (b)
 - Ballistic faking -aims
 - outcomes achieved

[7] Controlling Force (i) considered in [4] and [5] above.

[8] The Psyche of Opponent/Self (i) coercion as an example

[9] Sport Doctrine

- (i) defense wins championships**
- (ii) optional: home advantage (possible consideration)
- (iii) optional: psychological momentum (possible consideration)
- (iv) optional: other

Course/University Policies

1. **Lateness/Absences:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date and will not be accepted late, except under medical or other compassionate circumstances. Electronic submission of assignments will not be accepted (unless

otherwise specified) under any circumstances. Submitting a late assignment without appropriate documentation will result in a zero (0) grade. Appropriate documentation for assignments worth less than 10% should be submitted to the Undergraduate office. A missed mid-term examination without appropriate documentation will result in a zero (0) grade. The course policy is not to allow make-ups for scheduled midterms, presentations or final exams, nor to assign a grade of Incomplete without acceptable and verifiable medical (or equivalent compassionate) reasons. Acceptable reasons might include hospital stays, serious illness, family emergencies (like serious accidents or illness, death) or similar circumstances.

2. **Written documentation:** Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. stating specific reasons and dates. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted directly, as soon as possible, to the appropriate *Academic Counselling Office* of the student's Faculty/School of registration not to the instructor, with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy.

See <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> for specific policy and forms relating to accommodation.

3. **Grades:** Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment or feel that it is unfair in any way, you must wait 24 hours from the receipt of the assignment to approach the instructor or TA. In doing so, please make an appointment and prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate. Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to my attention immediately.

4. **Scholastic offences:** They are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

5. According to the **Examination Conflict policy**, "A student who is scheduled to write more than two examinations in any 24-hour period may request alternative arrangements through the office of their Academic Counsellor." **This policy does NOT apply to mid-term examinations.* There will be no make-up for the mid-term exam. Students who miss this exam with a valid reason will have the final re-weighted accordingly.

6. **Classroom Behaviour:** Class will begin promptly at the time specified at the top of page one of this syllabus. In the event that you must arrive late, please enter the classroom with a minimal disturbance to the class. I reserve the right to lock the classroom door and deny entrance if lateness becomes a common occurrence. Excessive talking during class time is disruptive, disrespectful, and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in such behaviour may be asked to leave the room. Cellular phones, pagers, and text-messaging

devices are disruptive when they ring in class. If you must bring these with you, please place them on silent mode or turn them off during class. Failure to do so may result in your being asked to leave.

7. Laptops for the **purpose of typing lecture notes** are permitted in class, but please be respectful to your fellow students and turn the sound off. If I receive complaints from other students regarding noise or other disruptive behaviour (e.g., watching videos on YouTube.com, updating your Facebook status, playing Solitaire), your classroom laptop privileges will be revoked.

8. Audio and/or videotaping of lectures is not permitted unless approval has been sought from the instructor in advance.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES

Visit the website <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf>

SUPPORT SERVICES

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

