
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – COMMERCE
Department of Health & Human Performance

HHPS 535 – Sociology of Sport

Fall 2013 – Online

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Scott Waltemyer, Ph.D.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to examine the social institution of sport, and its consequences for American society. Throughout the course we will discuss and examine topics such as the social organization of sport from play to professional sport, deviance and violence in sport, sport and other societal institutions, the influence of sport on different social groups, and the socialization implications from participation, and spectatorship, in sport.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook (required)

Eitzen, D. S. (2012). *Fair and foul: Beyond the myths and paradoxes of sport (5th ed.)*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. ISBN: 978-1-4422-1233-6

Other Textbooks (recommended, but not required)

Coakley, J. (2009). *Sports in society: Issues and controversies (10th ed.)*. New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-337654-7

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss sociological theories and their relation to sport
2. Describe the historical underpinnings of sport in society
3. Understand the importance and influence of sport on individuals and groups
4. Discuss different social issues within society and in the context of sport
5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in class activities, assignments, and discussions
6. Utilize university resources, including the library and writing center
7. Demonstrate the ability to organize ideas in written form, and demonstrate the ability to use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation in written assignments.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance/participation is required. Since this is an online course, the majority of the work (class assignments and discussions) can be done at your own pace; however, this also means submitting assignments/discussion on time! There will be weekly due dates. You do not have to wait until the due date to submit assignments, **you may submit them at your own leisure ON OR BEFORE the due date**, as some students prefer to complete their tasks as soon as possible.
Be sure to read specific instructions beforehand (especially the major assignments).
2. **NO late assignments/discussions will be accepted, unless there is a prior arrangement between the student and instructor.**
3. All assignments should be submitted in the appropriate “Dropbox” and should be typed as a *Microsoft Word.doc* document. No assignments will be accepted via email unless specifically stated by the instructor.
4. Exams will consist of objective, as well as subjective, items. Students are expected to take each exam at the scheduled time. **NO make-up exams will be given unless there is a prior arrangement or because of an excused university absence WITH proper documentation.**
5. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism during all class meetings, class discussions, presentations, and activities. Critical thinking and debate are encouraged, but students should be respectful of their fellow classmates. All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student Handbook)
6. Students are expected to exhibit professionalism in all communication with the instructor, this includes in-person and email.
7. Students should adhere to the university policies regarding academic misconduct (i.e. plagiarism, cheating, and other dishonest representations of academic work). Students in violation of these policies will be subject to the university’s academic misconduct procedures.
8. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am more than willing to provide any additional assistance if I can help. Remember, students earn grades; I do not give them.

ADA STATEMENT

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. Students requesting accommodations for disabilities should contact the Director of Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library, Room 132, 903-886-5835.

PLAGIARISM

As commonly defined, “plagiarism” consists of the passing off of one’s own, the ideas, words, writing, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. When using another person’s ideas, words, writing, etc., you should always cite that person, giving them credit for their work. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the instructor or university handbook.

GRADING SCALE

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
0% - 59%	F

EVALUATION

Discussion/Participation	200 pts.
Social Factors Paper	50 pts.
Film Reflection Paper	100 pts.
Social Issue Research Paper	100 pts.
Exam 1	90 pts.
Exam 2	60 pts.
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TOTAL	600 pts.

CLASS DISCUSSIONS (10 discussions, 20 pts. each, initial post and replies)

Students will be responsible for participating in weekly “online discussions”. Although this is an online course, students are still required to interact with each other and this will be accomplished through class discussions. Interpersonal communication serves an important educational purpose. For each course “Discussion” there will be an open-ended question proposed to the class. Each student is responsible for answering the question AND posting their own related question and comments to their classmates. For each discussion question topic, you will need to initially respond to my question (at least 72 hours before the due date/time) and then respond to and pose a follow-up question to at least two of your classmates. You will then need to respond to at least one of your classmates’ follow-up questions to you. If none of your classmates post a follow-up question to your initial post, you will need to post/respond to a third classmate. Both your initial post to the discussion question AND your ability to post and answer your classmates’ questions will be taken into account when graded. See each “Discussion” for specific instructions. Your initial post (and further responses) should include both personal thoughts, as well as outside information and research to backup your viewpoint. Always cite your references! *You should post your initial response at least two days before the due date, so that your classmates have a chance to reply.*

EXAMS

There will be two exams. Exam one will be essay style (and worth more points overall than exam two), while exam two will be multiple choice, true-false style questions covering course lectures/material and readings (Eitzen) from throughout the course. Questions will cover content directly from the lectures and textbook. Instructions will be posted. Exams are open note, book, Internet, but not open friend. *Be sure to save and submit your answers when finished.*

SOCIAL FACTORS PAPER

In the course, we will discuss sociological factors which influence use as individuals, and as a society. Each student will write a paper discussing the different sociological factors which have played a role in their own life and experiences related to sport. *More specific instructions are provided in "Week 2" in eCollege.*

FILM REFLECTION PAPER

Each student will complete a reflection paper regarding a sport documentary film from the ESPN "30 for 30" series. A reflection paper is NOT a summary of the film.

You will critically examine the documentary film of your choice from a sociological perspective. Your reflection paper will include a discussion on the film and the issue/topic documented, a discussion on sociological factors, values, and theories presented in the film, and the sociological significance of the issue/topic presented in the film.

More specific instructions are provided in "Week 2" in eCollege, with a link to the "30 for 30" series.

You may buy, rent, share, or look for the re-playing of the films on television, but you will be required to watch and write a paper on a film from this series.

SOCIAL ISSUE RESEARCH PAPER

Throughout the course we will be discussing different sociological factors/values/theories, and how they relate to social issues in American Society. Students will work individually on a research paper related to a sociological issue in sport, including conducting a review of literature on the topic. *Topic must be approved by the instructor. More specific instructions are provided in "Week 2" in eCollege.*

Although this assignment is not due until the Monday of "Week 15", you should take a look at the instructions, and start thinking about the topic you would like to research, during the first few weeks of the class, as you will need to get instructor approval for your topic and it will take you some time to research and write your paper.

*All papers should be completed, and submitted (in the appropriate "Dropbox"), as a **Microsoft Word.doc** document, as this is the only format that my computer can read. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word, please let me know.*

All discussions and papers are due by noon (12:00pm CST) on the Monday of the Due Date. (See below)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

Week 1	M	8/26	Introduction to the Course, Syllabus
Week 2	M	9/2	Sport in Society – Sociological Approaches to Study Sport Social Factors, Values, and Sport <i>Syllabus Post Due</i>
Week 3	M	9/9	The Duality of Sport (Eitzen, ch. 1) Sport Unites, Sport Divides (Eitzen, ch. 2) <i>Social Factors Paper Due</i>
Week 4	M	9/16	Sport is Fair, Sport is Foul (Eitzen, ch. 4) <i>Discussion 1 Due</i>
Week 5	M	9/23	Sport is Healthy, Sport is Destructive (Eitzen, ch. 5) <i>Discussion 2 Due</i>
Week 6	M	9/30	Children and Sport (Eitzen, ch. 6) <i>Discussion 3 Due</i>
Week 7	M	10/7	Sport is Expressive, Sport is Controlled (Eitzen, ch. 7) <i>Discussion 4 Due</i>
Week 8	M	10/14	Sport Mascots and Nicknames (Eitzen, ch. 3) <i>Discussion 5 Due</i>
Week 9	M	10/21	Midterm Exam (Due Monday, October 28)
Week 10	M	10/28	Myth: Sports are Played on a Level Playing Field? (Eitzen, ch. 8) <i>Discussion 6 Due</i>
Week 11	M	11/4	The Contradictions of Bit-Time College Sports (Eitzen, ch. 9) Sport: The Path to Success? Myth and Reality (Eitzen, ch. 10) <i>Discussion 7 Due</i>
Week 12	M	11/11	Professional Sport Franchises (Eitzen, ch. 11) <i>Discussion 8 Due</i>
Week 13	M	11/18	Globalization of Sport (Eitzen, ch. 12) The Future and the Challenge: Changing Sport (Eitzen, ch. 13) <i>Discussion 9 Due</i>
Week 14	M	11/25	<i>Film Reflection Paper Due</i> <i>Discussion 10 Due</i>
Week 15	M	12/2	Thanksgiving Week – No New Material <i>Social Issue Research Paper Due</i>
Week 16	M	12/9	Final Exam