

SOA U365  
Sport, Culture, and Society  
Summer 2005

**General Information:**

**Classroom:** 110 Kariotis Hall

**Time:** M, T, W, and Th. 9:50-11:30am

**Instructor:** Mark Melnik

**Office:** 583 Holmes Hall

**Office Phone:** (617) 373-3967

**E-mail:** melnik.m@neu.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8:30-9:30am, or by appointment.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course aims to provide an overview of the field of sport sociology and anthropology. The course will focus on the relationship between sports and various social institutions, specifically, political economics, education, and the family. Special emphasis will be paid to issues involving race, class, and gender.

The first objective of the course is to provide students with a working understanding of the theoretical perspectives, concepts, and methods that define the sociology and anthropology of sport. Second, students should begin to look beyond box scores and try and understand sports as a socio-political phenomenon. The third objective of the course is to help students develop their “sociological imagination” by critically analyzing the social, political, cultural, and historical context of sport in the United States and other societies.

**Required Texts:**

Jay Coakley. *Sport in Society: Issues and Controversies*.

Course Packet at Gnomon Copies (325 Huntington Ave).

**Class Policies**

Regular class attendance is expected, but is not mandatory. In short, I will not be taking attendance in this class. That being said, I should give fair warning that some material will be covered in the lectures that is not covered in the readings directly. So, it will be beneficial to regularly attend class. Students are responsible for any announcements or changes made to the class on days that he or she does not attend.

As for extra credit in this class... There is none. The syllabus is constructed to give students plenty of opportunity to improve his or her grade. As a result, I will not allow any student to do extra credit for any reason.

Makeup exams, quizzes, and paper extensions will also not be granted. All the assignment dates are on the tentative schedule, giving students plenty of time to prepare

for the exams and complete the paper. Makeups and extensions may be granted in cases of **extreme emergency** (with documentation).

University rules on plagiarism and academic misconduct will be strictly enforced. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty please consult the student handbook.

### **Student Evaluations:**

Your grade will be based on 100 total points.

Midterm exam: 25 points

Research Paper: 30 points

Discussion Day reflections: 8 points (2 points each)

Six in-class reading quizzes: 12 points (2 points each)

Final exam: 25 points

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100 total points

Your grade will be determined on the following scale:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	59 > = F

### **In Class Exams**

During the quarter, there will be one in-class exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, T/F, and essay questions. The final exam will be *selectively* comprehensive. This will be discussed in more detail as the quarter goes on.

### **Research Paper**

You will be expected to write a small research paper for this class (5-6 pages). You have two options for writing the paper. First, you can choose to write a paper *any topic in sport*. First, I ask that the topic be sociologically relevant. In that, theoretical concepts from chapter two in the Coakley text must be used in writing the paper. Second, I must approve all topics. Or, you can choose to read a book in the field of sport sociology and provide a **short** overview of basic arguments of the book. The bulk of the paper should be an analysis of the book using one of the major theories discussed in chapter two. In doing so, you will be required to review other sources (3 or more) along a similar topic area in sport sociology. In either case, I want paper topics by **May 12th**. The paper will be due **June 9th**. Late papers will be docked one letter grade for every day late.

The paper must meet these guidelines: one-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman font. In addition, you need to use academic sources. You may have one or two Internet sources, but I want to see the bulk of your research from books and/or sociology journals. For a 5-6 page paper, I would say 3 or 4 book/journal sources would be appropriate. I will talk more about the paper as the time approaches.

### **Discussion Day reflections:**

Students are to write four short reflection papers during the term (around 1½ to 2 pages each). Students are to use the main theories and concepts from the course chapter and lectures to write a short reflection on the articles and class discussion on the discussion day. The articles for the discussion day are very short and will be posted under the external links section of the website. The reflection should be sociological in nature, however, the way you choose to focus your reflection is up to you. I will discuss this more as the time approaches.

### **In-Class Reading Quizzes**

During the semester, there will be six in-class reading quizzes. These quizzes are on the schedule. Each quiz is worth 2 points, making up 12% of your grade. I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Reading quizzes will be short (10-15 minutes) made up of multiple choice and short answer questions. The quizzes are intended to serve as a check to make sure that students are keeping up with readings and understanding basic concepts in the course. The quizzes will not test memorization of facts and small details. Rather, when preparing for the quizzes, focus on key terms (in bold in the text) and general/major concepts in the reading. I will administer the quiz at the start of the class. The quiz will be over at 10:05. If you are late, you will have until 10:05 to finish. If you are later than 10:05, you will not be able to take the quiz. There are no makeup quizzes.

### **Tentative Class Schedule:**

#### **Week One: 5/2-5/5**

- *Welcome to Sport in Society*
- *What is Sport Sociology? Why study sports?*
- *Sociological Theory and Sport Sociology.*
  - Hand out syllabus
  - Collect information on students
  - Read chapters 1 and 2 in Coakley
  - Read in the packet chapters 1 and 2 from Eitzen
  - **Quiz #1-5/5**

#### **Week Two: 5/9-5/12**

- *Sports and Socialization*
- *Sports and Children*
- *Deviance in Sports*
  - *View Sports and Children: Training or Child Abuse?*
  - Read chapters 4, 5, and 6 in Coakley
  - **Quiz #2-5/12**
  - **Discussion Day 5/12-Steroids and sports**

#### **Week Three: 5/16-5/19**

- *Gender and Sports*

- **5/16-Reflection #1 due**
- Read Chapter 8 in Coakley
- View ESPN Title IX video
- **Discussion Day 5/19- Homophobia in sports**
- **Quiz #3-5/19**

**Week Four: 5/23-5/26**

- **5/23-Finish Gender up...Review for midterm**
- **5/23 Reflection #2 due**
- **Midterm-5/24—All material up to and including gender.**
- *Race and Sports*
  - Read Chapter 9 in Coakley
  - Read in packet, Chapter 3 in Eitzen
  - Read in the packet, Churchill “Crimes against Humanity” p.134-141.
  - Read in the packet, Woo “Polls Apart: SI polled Native Americans and sports fans in general on the use of Indian nicknames and got some surprising answers.”

**Week Five: 5/30-6/2**

- **University Closed 5/30**
- *Race and Sports*
- *Class and Sports*
  - Chapter 10 in Coakley
  - Read in Packet, Eitzen Chapter 9
  - **Discussion Day 5/31-Race and Racism in Sports**
  - **Quiz #4-5/31**
  - Time permitting, we may watch some of *Hoop Dreams*

**Week Six: 6/6-6/9**

- *Education and Sports*
- *Pro Sports*
  - **Reflection #3 due**
  - Watch the film *Go Tigers* (6/6)
  - **Quiz #5-6/7**
  - Read Chapter 14 in Coakley
  - Read in Packet, Chapter 8 in Eitzen
  - Read in the packet Bissinger “High School Football and Academics” p. 62-71
  - Read in the packet, Sage “The Professional Team Sports Industry” p.189-223.
  - Read in packet, Eitzen Chapter 10.

**Week Seven: 6/13-6/16**

- *The Media and Corporate Influence in Sports*
- *Politics, Globalization, Nationalism, and International Sports*

- Read Chapters 11, 12, and 13 in Coakley
- Read in the packet Klein “Yo Soy Dominicano: Hegemony and Resistance Through Baseball” p. 104-135.
- Read in the packet LaFeber, “The Greatest Endorser of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century or An Insidious Form of Imperialism” p. 130-164.
- **Discussion Day 6/16-Globalization and sports**
- **Quiz #6-6/16**
  - **Reflection #4 due to me via email 6/20**

**I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule as necessary during the semester.**