**HTS 3087 Foundations of Sports Studies**

**Spring 2012-2013**

**Tuesday/Thursday – 9:35 to 10:55 - D.M. Smith 207**

**Dr. Johnny Smith**

**Email: john.smith@hts.gatech.edu**

**Office: 137 Old Civil Engineering Building**

**Office Hours: T/R 2:00 – 3:30**

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce students to the study of sport from multiple disciplinary perspectives. By exploring different disciplinary perspectives students will learn about sport as a global phenomenon and its relationship with education, the economy, science, technology, communities, politics, and the media. We will also consider how race, gender, class, and ethnicity have shaped contemporary and historical sporting experiences.

**Learning Outcomes**: By the end of this course students should be able to:

* Demonstrate knowledge of the multi-disciplinary character of sport studies.
* Demonstrate knowledge of how sport developed as a mass-cultural phenomenon within the  broader historical contexts of globalization.
* Demonstrate knowledge of the political and economic issues that lead to the development of global sport and which continue to impact sport today.
* Discuss the social forces which contributed to the integration of science and technology as pervasive components of  modern sport
* Discuss particular disciplinary insights which shed light on the relationship between sport and education, the media, science, technology, and globalization
* Discuss how ideas about sports and sport participation inform the way people think about  their bodies and about gender, race, social class, and local communities

**Required Readings**

Andrei Markovits and Lars Rensmann, *Gaming the World: How Sports Are Reshaping Global Politics and Culture* (2010).

H.G. Bissinger, *Friday Night Lights* (1990; reprint 2000)

 Charles T. Clotfelter, *Big-Time Sports In American Universities* (2011)

\*Short reading assignments will also be posted on **T-Square**. I will notify students of additional readings at least one week prior to the discussion date.

**Course Format**: Since this is a discussion class, we will emphasize close student-instructor interaction, dialogue, and class debates. Students will engage secondary readings, write short essays, and give oral presentations in class. Students will also learn from guest lecturers and discussions led by Georgia Tech faculty in different disciplines.

**Grading and Requirements**

**Participation**: I do not give points for attendance. However, your success in this course is dependent upon your participation in class discussions. Students are expected to arrive on time, prepared to discuss assigned readings. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you know in advance that you are going to be late or have to leave early, please notify me. Students should also prepare a summary of the day’s assigned readings. Occasionally, I will collect these summaries in class and count them toward your participation grade.

**Response Papers**: Students will write two (2) four-to-five-page response papers; one essay for *Friday Night Lights* and another essay for *Big-Time Sports In American Universities*. We will discuss these books in class before you submit your response papers. I will also provide a handout with specific questions that you will need to address in your essays. The *Friday Night Lights* essay is due on **February 21st** and the *Big-Time Sports* essay is due **April 11th**.

**Class Debates :** The class will be divided into four teams for two debates. On **April 16th**, two teams will debate the following question: Will the Prevalence of Concussions and Traumatic Brain Injuries Lead to a Decline in Football Participation and Spectatorship? On **April 18th**, two teams will debate the following question: Are “Big-Time” College Sports Good for Society? Individual students will be responsible for arguing on behalf of their team in class and writing a two-to-three-page paper on their team’s position and a description of their role on the team. Students will be required to cite sources in their papers and in the debates. You will receive a handout with further instructions.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** Both the midterm and the final exam will include a short answer section and an essay section. The exams will cover material from lecture, readings, and discussions. You are required to write your essay answers in a **blue book**. Blue books can be purchased at the bookstore. On the day of the exam students must bring a blue book, two pens, and their student identification card.

**Grading Scale**: Participation 20%; Response Paper One 10%; Response Paper Two 10%; Debate Presentation 10%; Debate Position Paper 10%; Midterm Exam 20%; Final Exam 20%; Total 100%

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

**Academic Honesty**: Students in this class will be expected to abide by the Georgia Tech honor code. Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with Georgia Tech rules. For information see **http://www.honor.gatech.edu**

**General Courtesy Guidelines**: I expect you to respect your classmates and me at all times. You are expected to be on time for class, refrain from speaking out of turn, and **turn off all electronic devices before class begins**. I will not tolerate sleeping in class, text messaging, or using your computer for any purposes other than taking notes. If you choose to use a laptop for notes, you are required to sit near the back of the room. If you engage in any kind of distracting or inappropriate behavior I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**: If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). The ODS phone number is 404-894-2563.

**Weekly Class Schedule**

**Week 1:**

January 8 – Course Introduction – Foundations of Sports Studies

January 10 – Thinking about Sport Using Multiple Lenses **Readings**: Abernathy, et. al. (1997). Historical Origin of the Academic Study of Human Movement. *The Biophysical Foundations of Human Movement*. Champaign: Human Kinetics. And Charon, J. M. (2004). The Nature of Perspective. In *Symbolic Interactionism: An Introduction, and Interpretation, an Integration*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. (Both articles available on T-Square)

**Week 2**:

January 15 – The Meaning of Modern Sport: Why It Matters to Americans and People Around the World **Reading**: Andrei Markovits and Lars Rensmann, pp 1-42.

January 17 – Working Across Disciplines: Thinking about Sport. **Reading:** Abernathy, R. et. al. (1997). “Human Movement Studies as a Discipline and a Profession” and “Integrative Perspectives.” *The Biophysical Foundations of Human Movement*. Champaign: Human Kinetics. (Both articles available on T-Square)

**Week 3:**

January 22 – Historical Insights: The Origins of Modern Sport: Industrialization, Technology, and Globalization in the 19th Century

January 24 – Sociology of Sport: Guest Lecture, Dr. Jay Coakley, Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

**Week 4:**

January 29 – Historical Insights: The “Second Globalization” of Modern Sports: Post-industrialization and Technology, 1970-Present **Reading**: Markovits and Rensmann, *Gaming the World*, 43-106

January 31 – The Political Economy of Global Soccer: Guest Lecture, Dr. Kirk Bowman, Georgia Tech **Reading**: Markovits and Rensmann, *Gaming the World*, 157-206

**Week 5:**

February 5 – Economics of Sports: Part I: Guest Lecture, Dr. David Laband & Dr. Juan Moreno-Cruz, Georgia Tech **Reading**: By Downward, P. Dawson, A. & Dejonghe, T. (2009). “The Economics of Sport” in *Sports Economics; Theory, Evidence and Policy*

New York: Routledge. (article available on T-Square)

February 7 – Economics of Sports Part II: Guest Lecture, Dr. David Laband & Dr. Juan Moreno-Cruz, Georgia Tech

**Week 6:**

February 12 – Midterm Exam

February 14 – Gender, Race and American Football: ***Friday Night Lights* discussion**

**Week 7:**

February 19 – Gender, Race and American Football: ***Friday Night Lights* discussion**

February 21 – Documentary: *Bigger, Faster, Stronger: The Side Effects of Being an American;* ***Friday Night Lights* essay due in class**

**Week 8:**

February 26 – Applied Physiology: Guest Lecture, Dr. Mindy Millard-Stafford, Georgia Tech **Reading**: Kraemer, W. (2011). “Foundations of Exercise Physiology: Applying Research to Everyday Exercise and Sport” in *Exercise Physiology: Integrating Theory and Application*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. (article available on T-Square)

February 28 – Sports Psychology: Guest Lecture, Dr. Dana Wyner, Emory University

**Week 9:**

March 5 – Football and Concussions: Causes and Consequences  **Readings**: Sean Gregory, “The Problem With Football,” *Time*, February 8, 2010; Alan Schwartz, “NFL’s Dementia Study Has Flaws, Experts Say, *New* *York Times*, October 27, 2009 (Both articles available on T-Square)

 March 7 – Football and Concussions: More on the Science **Readings:** Colvin, A.C., Mullen, J., Lovell, M.R., West, R.V., Collins, M.W. & Groh,M. (2009). The Role of Concussion History and Gender in Recovery from Soccer-Related Concussion. *American Journal of Sports Medicine,* 37(9), 1699-1704. And Viano, D.C., Casson, I.R., & Pellman, E.J. (2007). Concussion in Professional Football: Biomechanics of the Struck Player--Part 14. *Neurosurgery*, 61(2), 313. (Both articles available on T-Square)

**Week 10:**

March 12- Sports Analytics and Computer Technology: Guest Lecture, Dr. John Stasko, Georgia Tech

March 14 – Sports Analytics and Predictive Modeling: Guest Lecture, Dr. Joel Sokol, Georgia Tech

**Week 11:**

March 19 – **No Class – Spring Break** March 21 – **No Class – Spring Break**

**Week 12:**

March 26 – The Visual Politics of Sports Stadia: Guest Lecture, Dr. Benjy Flowers, Georgia Tech **Reading:** Flowers, B. (2011). Stadia: Architecture and the Visual Iconography of Football, International Journal of the History of Sport. (Article available on T-Square)

March 28 – Sports as Entertainment **Reading**: Goldlust, J. (2009). “Sport as Entertainment: The Role of Mass Communications" in *Critical Readings: Sport, Culture and the Media*. (Article available on T-Square)

**Week 13:**

April 2 – Sports and Digital Media: Guest Lecture, Dr. Ian Bogost, Georgia Tech. **Reading:** Hutchins, B. (2008) Signs of Meta-Change in Second Modernity: The Growth of E-Sport and the World Cyber Games." *New Media & Society* 10(6), 851-869. (Article available on T-Square)

April 4 – Media, College Athletics and Higher Education: Corruption and Commercialism

**Discuss Clotfelter, *Big-Time Sports in American Universities***

**Week 14:**

April 9—College Athletics and Higher Education: Economics, Bodies and Politics

**Discuss Clotfelter, *Big-Time Sports in American Universities***.

April 11 – Sports Law and College Sport: Guest Lecture, Natasha Brison, J.D., Georgia State University

***Big-Time Sports in American Universities* essay due in class**

**Week 15:**

April 16 – Class Debate Group I: Concussions and Sport

April 18 – Class Debate Group II: Big-Time College Athletics

**Week 16:**

April 23 – Politics and Sports  **Reading**: Gary Smith, “Why Don’t More Athletes Take a Stand?” *Sports* *Illustrated*, July 9, 2012; Robert Lipsyte, “Jocks vs. Pukes,” *The Nation*, July 27, 2011 (both articles available on T-Square)

April 25 – The Present or the Future? Fantasy Sports and American Culture **Reading**: Halverson, E. & Halverson, R. (2008) Fantasy Baseball: The Case for Competitive Fandom, *Games and Culture* 3(3-4), 286-308. (Article available on T-Square)

April 30 – **Final Exam** (8:00 to 10:50 a.m.)