



Western University
SOC2191B-001
Special Topics in Sociology:
Sociology of Sport
Winter 2018-DRAFT VERSION

Instructor: Daisy-Mae Hamelinck OCT, MA, B.A (Hons), B.Ed., SSWD
Office: SSC 5209
Office Hours: Mondays after class (by appointment)
Classes Held: Mondays 3:30-5:30pm
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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to teach students to think critically about sport in contemporary society. Students will be introduced to a wide range of sporting ‘issues’, such as violence, cheating, doping, and corruption as well as broad sociological themes that can be examined using sport as a lens to view society, such as social class, gender, and racial inequality. Students will be encouraged to question the typical ‘positive’ understandings of sport and engage critically with discussions centred on sporting ideologies, e.g. playing through pain, winning at all costs, masculinity, etc. Mainstream theoretical frameworks will be introduced and applied to shed light on aspects of sport often hidden from view. The main goal is to challenge the idea of sport as an innocuous and unimportant leisure pursuit, to consider its social, cultural, political and economic significance, and its rise to significance, in our present globalized and commercialized society. This course will incorporate opportunities for experiential learning through cooperative learning techniques, in-class demonstrations, and in-class/online discussions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- analyze the topic of sport from a sociological perspective
- apply key sociological theories to current news events and everyday life
- engage in reflective practice regarding individual sport participation, experiences, and decisions
- understand the historical development of sport and its place within contemporary society
- identify how sexual orientation, disability, race, social class, age and gender are intertwined with current understandings of sport
- assess how meanings are constructed, reconstructed, and attached to sport participation and the culture of sport
- demonstrate an understanding of the key critical debates in defining sport in society

Required Textbook

Coakley, J. & Donnelly, P. (2009). *Sport and Society: Issues and Controversies*. (2nd Canadian Edition) McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

*Additional readings will be available either in hard copy or online.

Method of Evaluation

Grades for this course will be based on the following assessments:

1. Contributions to online discussions/in class exercises	25%
2. Mid-term exam– short answer and multiple choice (February)	25%
3. Final exam– short answer and multiple choice (April)	50%

Evaluation Breakdown

Assignment guidelines with detailed instructions, due dates, and marking schemes will be available in class or online.

Course Prerequisites: None required.

Laptops and Other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Due to the interactive and experiential nature of this course, there will be opportunities for students to use their phones and laptops to search relevant news items etc. It is the responsibility of the student to respect these learning opportunities accordingly.

No electronic devices permitted during in-class graded exercises and examinations.

Missed Exams and Late Assignments

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only.

If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking

Students may be required to submit assignments to <http://turnitin.com/> on the class website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences 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: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Compassionate Grounds

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Topic & Chapter Schedule

- Week 1:** Just a Bunch of Fun and Games? An Introduction to Critical Thinking about Sport and The Sociology of Sport through Experiential Learning, Cooperative Learning, and The Multiple Intelligences
- Week 2:** The Sociology of Sport: What is it and Why Study it?
Chapter 1
- Week 3:** Dominant Ideologies of Sport and Using Social Theories
Chapter 2
- Week 4:** Studying the Past to Understand the Present
Chapter 3
- Week 5:** Socialization: Sports and the Media
Chapters 4 and 12 (selected pages)
- Week 6:** Socialization: Sports and Children
Chapters 4 and 5
- Week 7:** **Reading Week**
- Week 8:** **Mid Term Examination**
- Week 9:** Deviance in Sports:
Cheating, Doping, and Corruption: The Dark Side of Sport
Chapter 6
- Week 10:** Violence in Sports: The (Persistent?) Dark Side of Sport
Chapter 7
- Week 11:** Gender and Sports:
Challenging the Idea of Sport as a Male Preserve and The Historical Struggle for Women's Sporting Legitimation
Chapter 8
- Race and Ethnicity:
What Sport Means to our Collective Identities
Chapter 9

- Week 12:** Social Class
Karl Marx and the Exploitation and Commodification of Athletes
Chapter 10 (selected pages)
- Sports and the Economy
The Commercial 'Value' of Sport: Why Corporations Need You to Believe that Sport is a Good Thing
Chapter 11 (selected pages)
- Week 13:** Sports and Politics
The Political 'Value' of Sport: Social Inclusion, Community Development, Crime Prevention and Other Rhetoric
Chapter 13 (selected pages)
- Sports in the Future and Wrap Up Presentation
Chapter 15

Exam Week: Final Examination

**Topic and chapter schedule subject to change*