

SOCI 320: Sociology of Sport
Department of Sociology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Fall 2017

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Office Hours: Mondays, 12:30-1:30
and by appointment

Grader: Struther Van Horn

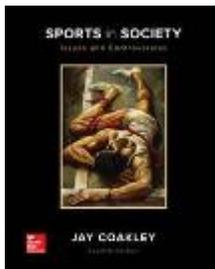
Course Description

This course is designed to orient you with the sociological study of sport. To view sports sociologically means to investigate how we think about sports themselves, the individuals who participate in them, and the people who watch them. Additionally, a part of this consideration is how these elements cannot be separated from social norms, practices, and inequalities. In this class, we cover a wide range of social phenomena as they relate to the consumption and performance of sport in American culture in particular. Understanding the role that sports play in our society is important in that we can learn much about our culture and ourselves.

Course Objectives

- *Discuss* why and how sociologists study sports.
- *Use* sociological concepts, theories, and research to raise critical questions about sports.
- *Explore* the relationship between sports, culture, and society.
- *Analyze* the relationship between sports and stratification by gender, race, and class.
- *Understand* the relationship between sports and major social institutions.
- *Examine* controversies in sports and related programs using a sociological perspective.

Required Materials



The text listed below may be purchased as an e-book by purchasing the Connect access card or in print per student preference.

Coakley, J. J. (2016). *Sports in Society: Issues and controversies* (12th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.
ISBN: 9781259910654 (Hard Copy). ISBN: 9781259910647 (Loose Leaf w/ Connect Access Card).

Supplemental readings will be posted on Canvas and linked in **red** within modules.

Course Conduct

- ❖ Online courses can be difficult if not taken seriously from the start. In order to maximize your success in this course, keep up with the readings each week. You should also consider defining vocabulary words and answer the discussion questions provided in each module. Keeping up with the work at the beginning of the class will help you in avoiding being overwhelmed with the work later on.
- ❖ Be honest in your work. Do not cheat. Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism will be taken seriously and your grade will be affected in a serious fashion.
- ❖ Respect your classmates' contributions on the discussion board. This is especially important in this class where information is about people's personal experiences. You can disagree with a perspective that another student or I may present, but you should treat the material, idea, and person with respect.
- ❖ Take responsibility for your own learning. If you have a question regarding an assignment or any course material, ask it! Students that alert me to any questions or issues tend to improve their work in the class. I know what it is like being a student. Keeping on top of your work and communicating with me when questions or issues arise will be to your benefit. Do not be afraid to contact me!

Technology

We will be using Canvas for the course (canvas.unl.edu); the use of Canvas is a central part of this class. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the functions of Canvas, especially for the purposes of viewing assignment directions and uploading assignments. With this in mind, please approach the course with patience as we all adjust to this new platform.

Computer Lab Options

<i>Sociology Computer Lab</i>	<i>Adele Hall Learning Commons (Library)</i>
Rm. 738 Oldfather Hall	Open 24 Hours
OPEN Mon. – Fri., 8:15 – 4:45	Printing Available
	Huskertech open Mon. – Fri., 8:00 – 7:00
	MAC and PC laptops available for check out

Please take the time to upload a picture to your Canvas page. This will help me in getting to know you as best I can within the online format. You can do this by going to Account > Settings > Edit Settings > Click on the Pencil icon when hovering over the picture.

Also, make sure that the time zone is correct. It should be set to Central Time, U.S. & Canada (CST). You can double check this by going to Account > Settings > Edit Settings.

You also have the option of downloading the Canvas app. The app can be download the free Canvas App from the iTunes or the Google Play store. Search for “Canvas by Instructure” in your app store. Do not try to do your assignments using this app, however. Coursework should be conducted using a computer.

Communication

The best way to contact me is via email. I check my email regularly, but not obsessively. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours. You may also use the Canvas messaging service, but proper e-mail etiquette still applies (see below).

To reach you, I will use Canvas. Please take a few minutes to review your contact information in both Canvas and MyRed. It is your responsibility to make sure your contact information is current. To ensure your contact information is up to date on Canvas, go to Account > Settings > Edit Settings.

Additionally, turn on your Canvas notifications to ensure you receive information. You have the option to receive updates via text and/or via email. To set these settings on Canvas, go to Account > Notifications.

E-Mail Etiquette

When contacting the instructor via e-mail, proper e-mail etiquette should be utilized. Your e-mail should include a subject line; name and time of the course; proper greeting (e.g., “dear,” “hello,” “hi,” etc.); correct spelling and grammar; and a signature including your name. When sending an attachment via e-mail, it should be referred to within the body of the e-mail and not sent independently. Learning professional email practices will benefit and help you to reach broader and course specific goals particularly as they pertain to the workplace and developing communication skills. You may refer to me as Mr., Professor, or Instructor Haltom. My preference is that you do not refer to me by my first name.

Grading

Grades will be returned within a week (7 days) of the due date unless otherwise communicated. Please keep in mind that this is a large class and grading takes time. Also, you may only receive feedback on your assignments if there are specific points or issues that need addressing.

- ❖ The final grade is based on points, not percentages, so rounding issues will not be a concern.
- ❖ Do not ask me to “bump” your grade. Every point is laid out for you; it is your responsibility to earn the grade that you want/need. There are no opportunities for extra credit.
- ❖ Please bring any mistakes to my attention in a timely manner (i.e., grade entered wrong, bad math, etc.). If it is a content-related issue (i.e., question wording or you disagree with my grading, etc.), you may contest it in writing. You must submit a well-written argument for your case that draws on specific course material along with the graded assignment/exam. Written grade appeals will only be accepted for *one week* after the graded assignment or exam has been returned to the class. Students must submit such appeals individually via e-mail.
- ❖ Questions about grades should come to the instructor first. Do not contact the grader.

Grade Breakdown

Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage	Points
A+	100% - 97%	250 – 242	C+	79% - 77%	198 - 192
A	96% - 93%	241 – 232	C	76% - 73%	191 - 182
A-	92% - 90%	231 - 224	C-	72% - 70%	181 - 174
B+	89% - 87%	223 - 217	D	69% - 60%	173 – 149
B	86% - 83%	216 - 207	F	59% or less	148 or less
B-	82% - 80%	206 - 199			

Missed and Late Work

All assignments are to be uploaded to Canvas no later than 10:00 pm on the day in which they are due. Assignments uploaded at 10:01 are considered late. Emailed assignments will **NOT** be accepted.

Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but will be graded at half credit. I will not accept assignments/exams that are late or missed without a penalty unless you provide a *compelling* reason with **official documentation** (such as a doctor’s note or a documented athletic/academic event).

It is up to you to make sure the appropriate document is uploaded to Canvas when an assignment is due. Uploading a wrong or blank document will result in the loss of points per the late policy.

Course Requirements & Activities

Below are point breakdowns of course requirements, activities, and their descriptions. More information (i.e., due dates) can be found in the Course Schedule and the assignments themselves are posted on Canvas within the modules.

Assignments	
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Points</i>
Introductory Activities	10
Discussion Boards (5 @ 10 pts. each)	50
Group Infographic	40
35 pts. for Group Grade	
5 pts. for Individual Grade	
Position Paper	50
10 pts. Topics and Citations	
40 pts. Final Paper	
Exams (2 @ 50 pts. each)	100
Total	250

Introductory Activities (10 pts.)

During the first week of class, you will familiarize yourself with the course and the Canvas tools we will be using throughout the semester. You will take a syllabus quiz (5 pts.) and post to the discussion forum a blurb (5 pts.) about yourself and an image that describes you. Completing these activities will earn you an easy ten (10) points for the class and set you up for success for the rest of the semester. Additionally, they will help me get to know you a little better as online courses can feel distancing between student and instructor.

Discussion Boards (5 @ 10 pts. each, 50 pts. total)

In addition to the introductory discussion board, there will be seven (7) opportunities to participate in discussion boards throughout the course; the lowest two (2) discussion board post grades will be dropped from the overall course grade. Discussion board posts must be completed by 10:00 p.m. on the date the module closes. Discussion board posts can be completed up to one week late, but will be graded at half credit. Original posts will roughly be graded out of 7 points and the replies out of 3 points.

Students will compose a response to specific prompts relating to the Sociology of Sport using the course material. Original posts must be a minimum of 200 words. Students are also required to write a minimum 100 word response to the post of at least one other student in the course. Both original post and response should be intelligently written using correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. *Add the word count to the bottom of each post.* Responses must also utilize course material in answering the posed questions. These criteria will factor into discussion post grades.

Group Infographic (40 pts.)

Students will be assigned to groups by the instructor and each group will complete an Infographic during the course. Infographics will visually present data and other findings from scholarly, peer-reviewed sources. The infographic will be worth 35 points, and each individual student will be evaluated on their contribution to the group to earn up to 5 additional points, for a total of 40 points. Complete instructions are available in the “Course Documents” module on Canvas. Due dates for submitting the Infographic as an assignment AND to a specified course discussion board are outlined in the Course Schedule. Group infographics can be completed up to one week late, but will be graded at half credit. Groups should also post their infographics to the appropriate discussion board; you never know from where test questions will come!

Position Paper (50 pts.)

Each student will choose a controversy relating to the Sociology of Sport and write a position paper. This paper will explain the controversy and supporting a position on the controversy by evaluating current academic research in that area.

The position paper will have two parts: topic and resource identification (10 points) and final paper (40 points). Complete instructions are available in the “Course Documents” module on Canvas. Due dates are available in the Course Schedule. Position papers can be completed up to one week late, but will be graded at half credit.

Exams (2 @ 50 pts. each for 100 pts.)

There will be a midterm and a final exam. Questions will be in multiple choice and short answer formats. The final will not be cumulative. I do not provide study guides. There are slides and worksheets provided for each chapter; use these as guides for the test.

Each exam is worth 50 points and is taken in the Digital Learning Commons (DLC) Testing Center in the Adele Learning Commons (North library) or by a proctor to be arranged by the student. Those enrolled in section 900 will take exams locally in the Testing Center. Those enrolled in section 700 are responsible for finding a proctor in your area within the first two weeks of the course. Instruction on how to do this are posted under “Exam Information.”

You will have 90 minutes and one business week (Monday-Friday) during which to complete the Midterm exam. The exam opens Monday at 9:00am and cannot be taken after 5:00pm on the Friday of the test week. The Final exam will be offered Monday-Thursday and will be available according to the adjusted hours of the DLC Testing Center finals week schedule.

Exams must be taken during the scheduled week. Make-up exams are only allowed under *extreme circumstances, and at the instructor’s discretion*. Students *must* provide documentation for medical emergencies. You have *one* attempt at each exam.

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty should be exhibited in this and all courses. Academic dishonesty as defined by the UNL Student Code of Conduct article IV (<http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code>) will not be tolerated. It is your responsibility to be familiar with UNL policies regarding academic dishonesty and to ensure that you know what constitutes academic dishonesty. If you are unsure whether an action for this course constitutes academic dishonesty, it is your responsibility to consult with the professor prior to taking that action. The penalty for the first act of academic dishonesty will be an automatic “0” on the assignment or exam. A second offense will result in automatic failure of the entire course. Students committing academic dishonesty may also be subject to additional university disciplinary action. Consistent with the UNL Student Code of Conduct, complicity in academic dishonesty is equivalent to academic dishonesty and will be penalized accordingly.

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty that many student struggle with. Taking someone else’s work/words and using them as your own is a serious offense. The Office of Graduate Studies has put together a nice website to help students better understand plagiarism and how to avoid it. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or if you just want a refresher, please take advantage of this resource, which can be found at:
<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/plagiarism.shtml>.

Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln not to discriminate upon *age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender identity, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran’s status, marital status, religion, or political affiliation*. I expect these guidelines to be respected by all students.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.