**SOCI 320: Sociology of Sport**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Summer 2019

**Instructor:** Trenton M. Haltom (he, him, his)  
**Office:** 741 Oldfather Hall (741 OLDH)  
**E-Mail:** tmhaltom@huskers.unl.edu  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST, in-person and via Skype or Zoom, and by appointment

**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 U.S. 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**  
- Use sociological concepts, theories, and research to raise critical questions about sports.  
- Analyze the relationship between sports and stratification by gender, race, class, and other 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.


- Supplemental readings will be posted on Canvas and linked within modules.  
- We will only use the textbook, not Connect or any other McGraw-Hill resources.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer Lab Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociology Computer Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm. 738 Oldfather Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPEN Mon. – Fri., 8:15 – 4:45</td>
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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 downloaded free 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
To contact me, you may use traditional email or the Canvas messaging service. I check my email and messages regularly, but not obsessively. I will do my best to respond to emails and messages within 24 hours. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours, you may send a polite reminder. Regardless of how you message me, 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 and settings 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 me via e-mail, proper e-mail etiquette should be used. 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.

**Grading**

Grades will be returned within a reasonable amount of time after the due date unless otherwise communicated. Please keep in mind that 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.
- Opportunities for extra credit are provided at my discretion and vary from semester to semester.
- 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100% - 97%</td>
<td>250 - 242</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79% - 77%</td>
<td>198 - 192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96% - 93%</td>
<td>241 - 232</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>76% - 73%</td>
<td>191 - 182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92% - 90%</td>
<td>231 - 224</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72% - 70%</td>
<td>181 - 174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89% - 87%</td>
<td>223 - 217</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>69% - 60%</td>
<td>173 - 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86% - 83%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59% or less</td>
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**Missed and Late Work**

- All assignments are to be uploaded to Canvas no later than 11:59 pm on the day in which they are due. Assignments uploaded at 12:00 are considered late.
❖ Emailed assignments will **NOT** be accepted.
❖ Late work will be graded at 10% for every day late. A week (7 days) after the due date, you will receive a zero (0) for the assignment.
❖ I will not accept 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz (10 pts.)</td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz (10 pts.)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intro. Discussion Board Post (10 pts.)</td>
<td>Intro. Discussion Board Post (10 pts.)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards (5 @ 25 pts. each)</td>
<td>Discussion Boards (5 @ 25 pts. each)</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position Paper (50 pts.)</td>
<td>Position Paper (50 pts.)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 @ 100 pts. each)</td>
<td>Exams (3 @ 100 pts. each)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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*Syllabus Quiz (15 pts.)*

During the first week of class, you will familiarize yourself with the course, the syllabus, and the Canvas tools we will be using throughout the semester. You will take a syllabus quiz (10 pts.).

*Introductory Discussion Board Post (10 pts.)*

Community is hard to find in online classes. As an early (and easy) assignment, you will post to the discussion forum a blurb about yourself and provide an image that describes you.

Completing these introductory activities will earn you points and set you up for success for the rest of the semester. Additionally, they will help me and your classmates get to know you a little better!

*Discussion Boards (5 @ 25 pts. each, 125 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 automatically dropped from the overall course grade.

All discussion board content must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Most of the time, original posts are due Wednesday (11:59 p.m.) and responses are due Friday (11:50 p.m.). You always have two days between the original post and response. You have already been automatically
assigned a Discussion Board Group of approximately seven (7) peers to get to know via these posts throughout the semester. Discussion board posts will be graded on response to the questions, reference to course material, replies, and overall quality for a total of 25 pts. each.

Students will compose an answer to prompts using the course material. Original posts must be between 200 and 300 words and responses must be a 100-150 words. 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.

*Position Paper (50 pts.)*
At two times throughout the semester, you have the option to respond to one (1) of two prompts on which you must take a position and write a response. Do not write about both options. These are short papers at 500 words maximum. For more information on the position paper options, see the Course Documents module on Canvas.

*Exams (3 @ 100 pts. each for 300 pts.)*
There three (3) exams in this course scheduled periodically throughout the semester.

- Each exam is non-cumulative, multiple choice, covers material from book and modules.
- Exams are to be taken in the Digital Learning Commons (DLC) Testing Center in the Adele Learning Commons (North library).
- If you do not live within 35 miles of campus it is *your responsibility* to provide proctor for each exam.
- You may take the exam during DLC business hours. Exams must be taken during the scheduled exam week.
  - Summer Business Hours:
    - Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00
    - Sunday, 1:00-5:00
- You have *one* attempt at each exam. I do not allow make-up exams—you have a week.

*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.

Gender-Neutral Bathrooms
The following webpage provide a list of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus: https://involved.unl.edu/unl-gender-neutral-bathrooms

Lactation Rooms
There is a private lactation space in 727A Oldfather, and a family room on the ground floor (North side, room 105). Additional information about lactation spaces is available at http://www.unl.edu/chancellor/policymemoranda/20090901-Lactation-Policy.