

SOCI 320X: Sociology of Sports
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Spring 2016

Instructor: Katherine Bass
Office: 711 Oldfather Hall
Office Hours: by appointment only
Email: bass_katie@yahoo.com

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 and how these elements cannot be separated from social norms, practices, and inequalities. In this class, we will cover a wide range of social phenomena as they relate to the consumption and performance of sport in American culture. Understanding the role that sports play in our society is important in that we can learn much about our culture and ourselves.

Course Objectives

During this course, you will:

- **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 sports related programs using a sociological perspective.

Required Materials

Coakley, Jay. 2015. *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*. 11th Edition. McGraw Hill Higher Education. (ISBN: 978-0-07-802252-4)

Other relevant readings posted on Blackboard.

Things to Keep in Mind

- ❖ 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 and consider answering the discussion questions at the end of each module. Keeping up with the work at the beginning of the class will help you in not being overwhelmed with the work later on.

- ❖ Be honest in your work. Don't cheat. Don't 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 I or another student 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's like being a student. Keeping on top of your work and communicating with me when questions or issues arise will be to your benefit.
- ❖ **A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY:** The use of Blackboard is a central part of this class. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the functions of Blackboard, especially for the purposes of viewing assignment directions and uploading assignments. It is up to you to make sure the appropriate document is uploaded to Blackboard when an assignment is due. Uploading a wrong or blank document will result in the loss of points per the late policy (see below).

Course Requirements and Grades

Introductory Activities	10
Discussion Boards (5 @ 10 pts)	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	
<u>Exams (2@50 pts)</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	250

Introductory Activities: During the first week of class, you will familiarize yourself with the course and the Blackboard tools we will be using throughout the semester. Completing these activities will earn you an easy ten points for the class and set you up for success for the rest of the semester.

Discussion Boards (5 @ 10 pts each, 50 pts total): In addition to the introductory discussion board, there will be 7 opportunities to participate in discussion boards throughout the course. Students will compose a response to specific prompts relating to the Sociology of Sport using the course material they have learned. The posts must be a minimum of 200 words. In addition,

students will be required to write a minimum 50 word response to the post of at least one other student in the course. Discussion board posts must be completed by 5 p.m. on the date the module closes. There are 7 discussion board posts in the course, and the lowest two discussion board post grades will be dropped from the overall course grade. Discussion board posts can be completed up to one week late, but will be graded at half credit.

Group Infographic (40 points): 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 “Assignments” folder on Blackboard. Due dates for submitting the Infographic as an assignment AND to a specified course discussion board are outlined in the course schedule and assignment instructions. They can be completed up to 1 week late, but will be graded at half credit.

Position Paper (50 points): Each student will choose a controversy relating to the Sociology of Sport and write a position paper explaining the controversy and supporting their position on the controversy by evaluating current academic research in that area. The position paper will have two parts: topic and source identification (10 points) and final paper (40 points). Complete instructions are available in the “Assignments” folder on Blackboard. Due dates are available in the assignment instructions and the course schedule. Position papers can be completed up to 1 week late, but will be graded at half credit.

Exams (2 @ 50 points each for 100 points): There will be 2 multiple choice/true false exams: A midterm and a final. The final will not be cumulative. Each exam is worth 50 points and is taken in the Testing Center in Burnett Hall. You will have 90 minutes to take each exam. More instructions are posted on Blackboard under “Exams.” Exams must be taken during the scheduled week.

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			

Grading

I will do my best to grade materials in a timely manner. 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 I feel need to be addressed with you. That being said, there are certain rules to follow:

- ❖ Exams cannot be made up without extenuating circumstances and approved by me. You have a week to take each exam. Please make time to do so during that week.
- ❖ 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 will be no opportunity for extra credit.
- ❖ Like any human, I have been known to make mistakes. Should I make a mistake unrelated to content (i.e. grade entered wrong, bad math, etc.), please bring it to my attention in a timely manner. 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.

Missed and Late Work

All assignments are to be uploaded to Blackboard no later than 5:00 pm on the day in which they are due. Assignments uploaded at 5:01 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).

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.

To reach you, I will use Blackboard. Please take a few minutes to review your contact information in both Blackboard and MyRed. It is your responsibility to make sure your contact information is current.

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty should be exhibited in this and all courses. Academic dishonesty as defined by the UNL Student Code of Conduct section 4.2 (<http://stuafs.unl.edu/ja/code/three/shtml>) 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>.

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.