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

Instructors
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Office hours
Mondays, 1:00-3:00; Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00; or by appointment

Course Description
The focus of this course is the sociological study of sport. In this class, we discuss a wide range of social phenomena as they relate to the performance and consumption of sport in US culture. Understanding the role that sports play in any society is important because it teaches us a great deal about the culture of that society.

Course Learning Objectives

- Use sociological concepts, theories, and research to explore the relationship of sports to culture and society.
- Analyze how sports affect and are affected by major social institutions.
- Examine controversies in sports and related programs using a sociological perspective.

Required Materials


Supplemental readings are posted on Canvas and linked in red within modules.

Course Conduct

- The greatest benefit of an online course is the scheduling flexibility it provides students; this is also its greatest curse because it is easy to let things slide! You have busy lives so feel free to work ahead in this course. All of the assignments are open to you now, with the exception of exams and responses in your discussion boards. We encourage you to buy the book and start work.
- One problem in an online course is that it may be difficult to get to know other students. You have been assigned to a student group of about 10 students for the
discussion boards so that you will have a chance to get to know people, at least online. There are no group grades, only individual grades.

- Your group members will be commenting on your discussion posts so if you are late, you will cause problems for them. For this reason, late assignments have a stiff penalty of 10% per day. Do not wait until the last minute to post, in case your internet access goes down or some other emergency prevents you from posting; the penalty applies because your group depends on you to post on time.
- Respect your group members’ contributions on the discussion board. This is especially important in this class where students discuss their personal experiences with sports. You can disagree with a perspective that others present, but you should treat the material, idea, and person with respect; also, please keep confidential any information from posts (even though it is rarely sensitive).
- Please do not post anything in Canvas that you consider sensitive. We will plan to treat everything in this website as confidential information but it is a bad idea to ever post anything sensitive to the internet.
- Be honest in your work. Do not cheat. Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism will be taken seriously and your grade will be substantially affected. We will use Turnitin on Canvas to check all written work for possible plagiarism or copying.
- Take responsibility for your own learning. If you have a question regarding an assignment or any course material, ask it! Students that alert us to any questions or issues tend to improve their work in the class. We know what it is like being a student. Keeping on top of your work and communicating with us when questions or issues arise will be to your benefit. Do not be afraid to contact us!

Technology

Everything you need for this course is on Canvas (except for the textbook). Please familiarize yourself with the functions of Canvas, especially for the purposes of viewing assignment directions and uploading assignments. The Canvas student manual is helpful if you have questions. See: https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/49792

You can borrow laptops from Huskertech, Mon. – Fri., 8:00am-7:00pm: https://its.unl.edu/huskertech/

<table>
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<th>Computer Labs</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sociology Computer Lab</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rm. 738 Oldfather Hall</td>
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<td><strong>OPEN</strong> Mon. – Fri., 8:15am – 4:45pm</td>
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</table>

- Please upload your picture to your Canvas page. This will your team get to know you. You can do this by going to Account > Settings > Edit Settings > Click on the Pencil icon when hovering over the picture.
- Make sure that the time zone is correct. It should be set to Central Time, U.S. & Canada (CST). Double check this by going to Account > Settings > Edit Settings.
- You may download the free Canvas App from the iTunes or the Google Play store: search for “Canvas by Instructure”. Use a computer for posting assignments.
Communication

- The best way to contact us is by email or the Canvas message service. We will do our best to respond to emails within 24 hours. When contacting us by e-mail please use:
  - A subject line with the course number in it (SOCI320).
  - Specific information about your question.
  - A signature with your name(s) so we know to whom we should reply.
  - Attachments if needed (but do not email assignments; post them in Canvas so they will be graded properly).
- To reach you, we will use Canvas messages. Please make sure your contact information is current in both Canvas and MyRed. On Canvas go to Account > Settings > Edit Settings.
- Turn on your Canvas notifications to ensure you receive information. You have the option to receive updates by text or email. To set these settings on Canvas, go to Account > Notifications.

Grading

- We will try to grade assignments within 2 weeks of the due date but this is a large class and careful grading takes time.
- Please let us know if you find errors in the Gradebook (e.g., bad math).
- If it is a content-related issue (e.g., exam question wording or position paper grades), please email us a well-written argument for your case that draws on specific course material (e.g., on page XXX of the textbook it says YYY that disagrees with the answer on the exam—and please write in the question).
- Questions about exams should be sent to the Professor; questions about position papers or discussion boards should be sent to the Teaching Assistant.

Grading Scale: 1000 points possible
Letter Grade | Points (grades are based on points, with no rounding)
---|---
A | 930-1000
A- | 900-929
B+ | 870-899
B | 830-869
B- | 800-829
C+ | 770-799
C | 730-769
C- | 700-729
D+ | 670-699
D | 630-669
D- | 600-629
F | 0-599
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Course Syllabus</td>
<td>Biography</td>
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<td>Course Schedule</td>
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<td>Sociology of Sport</td>
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<td>Gender and Sports</td>
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<td>Race, Ethnicity and Sports</td>
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<td>Sports and Politics</td>
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<td>Position Paper Option 2 due Fri</td>
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<td>4/8-4/12</td>
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<td>The Media and Sports</td>
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Course Schedule and Requirements

Information about the course schedule and assignments is on Canvas in the weekly modules. The Calendar button shows all assignments in one place. Late assignments will lose 10% credit per day. Late exams will not be accepted because you have several days available to take each exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments: turn in in the Module, except for exams</th>
<th>Possible Points (1000)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus and Policies Quiz due 1/11</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biography for Discussion Group due 1/11</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Posts (5 @ 30 pts. each) due Wednesdays</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Responses (5 @ 5 pts. each) due Fridays</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position Paper Option 1 (due 3/8) OR Option 2 (due 4/5)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (3 @ 200 pts. each)</td>
<td>600</td>
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</tbody>
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**Syllabus and Policies Quiz**
- Take the quiz to show that you fully understand course requirements.
- You may take the quiz multiple times to try to improve your score (the better you understand how the course works the more you will learn).

**Biography**
- Post a short biography about yourself to the discussion forum so your group will get to know a little about you.

**Discussion Board Posts**
- You have been randomly assigned to a team of about 10 students for your discussion boards
- There will be 7 discussion board topics with specific questions, with the lowest 2 grades dropped; post by 11:59pm on the due date (always a Wednesday) to receive credit for your post (about 200 words per post)
- Refer to course readings in your posts in order to receive full credit

**Discussion Board Responses**
- Reply to another student’s discussion post by 11:59pm on the due date (always a Friday)
- 50-100 words per post
- To receive full credit, say something more than “good job”— explain how you think this post fits with an idea from one of the readings

**Position Papers: choose Option 1 or Option 2**
- Short paper, 500 words maximum.
- Select option #1 or option #2; do not write both papers.
- *Upload to Canvas by 11:59pm of the due date.* Late papers will lose 10% per day.
- Graded for readability; writing advice available from UNL Writing Center, with more info at end of syllabus and here: [unl.edu/writing](http://unl.edu/writing)
• **Penalties for plagiarism**, or using someone else’s words without citing them or using quotation marks. Using the TurnItIn system, we will compare papers to published work, websites, online papers, other UNL students’ papers, and other relevant documents. Excessive overlap with others’ written work will result in a lower grade. Plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and notification to the University of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

• Include a bibliography of references and cite these references in the body of the paper. Please use the ASA format for references at the end of your paper and for citing them in the body of the paper. Info on this is here: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/03/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/03/)

• All sources must be from national news media sites, based on journalists’ reports (e.g., PBS, Time magazine, NY Times, NPR, CNN, etc.). Do not use social media because we will not be able to determine whether the information is accurate.

• Grades based on answering and completing all six sections fully, with information from at least 5 news sources and one course source, and a clear explanation in section 4 about how the sociology of sport applies to these questions.

**Option 1: “Athletic” Bodies, Gender, Race, and Ability**

The idea of an “athletic” body is established through sports. Athletic bodies are affected by sociological factors such as gender, race, and ability, as can be seen in the Olympics.

• **Section 1**: Who is Caster Semenya? What are her sports accomplishments? What was the controversy around her?

• **Section 2**: Who is Oscar Pistorius? What are his sports accomplishments? What is the controversy about the fairness of Pistorius's participation in the Olympics? What is the controversy surrounding Pistorius’s personal life outside of sport competition?

• **Section 3**: Over history, at least 11 athletes with disabilities have competed in the Olympics. Who is one athlete with a disability who has competed in the Olympic games? What is their event and what year(s) did they compete? What medals did they win and accomplishments did they achieve?

• **Section 4**: What have you learned from this course’s textbook and other course materials that give sociological context to these issues?

• **Section 5**: Given what you have learned about the sociology of sport, how can people with bodies that are not considered “athletic” be given more opportunity to participate in sports?

• **Section 6**: ASA reference list on a separate page

**Option 2: The World Cup and International Politics and Economics**

Like the Olympics, World Cup soccer is an international sport phenomenon with major sociological implication for gender, race, countries’ finances, and more.

• **Section 1**: How does FIFA decide where to host the World Cup, and how does this
Section 1: What is the relationship between corruption and sports? How rich does a country have to be to win a World Cup bid?

Section 2: What are “FIFA World Cup Courts,” and how do they affect the host country's justice system?

Section 3: Men's soccer is much more popular than women's soccer. How does FIFA treat women's soccer differently than men's soccer?

Section 4: What have you learned from this course’s textbook and other readings that give sociological context to these issues?

Section 5: Given what you have learned about the sociology of sport, how would you recommend FIFA conduct its business moving forward regarding World Cups, gender, and host countries?

Section 6: ASA reference list on a separate page

Exams
- 3 exams, non-cumulative, multiple choice, covers material from book and modules
- Administered at DIGITAL LEARNING CENTER (DLC), located in the southeast corner of the Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons (Love Library North).
- Students must reserve a time to take the exams (https://its.unl.edu/dlc). You can make reservations up to 2 weeks in advance of the exam. If you miss your appointment, you are allowed to schedule only one more appointment.
- Exams are available for 4 or 5 days so make sure your reservation falls in the exam period.
- If you cannot use the DLC because you reside more than 35 miles from campus, please follow instructions in the course module for arranging for an exam proctor.
- No make-ups because you have several days to complete each exam.

Course and University Policies

Accessibility Support
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me (the instructor or teaching assistant) for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. This includes students with mental health disabilities like depression and anxiety. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide individualized accommodations 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, 232 Canfield Administration, 472-3787.

Academic Integrity
Per the UNL Student Code of Conduct: “The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions.”

A. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: Copying or attempting to copy from an academic test or examination of another student; using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices for an academic test, examination or exercise; engaging or attempting to engage the assistance of another individual in misrepresenting the academic
performance of a student; communicating information in an unauthorized manner to another person for an academic test, examination or exercise; plagiarism; tampering with academic records and examinations; falsifying identity; aiding other students in academic dishonesty, and other behaviors in the student judicial code of conduct, Article III section B (stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code)

B. The penalties for academic dishonesty will be severe, and may range from receiving a failing grade on the test or assignment, failing the course in which academic dishonesty took place, or the possibility of expulsion from the university. Faculty will report all cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students at UNL, who will place a report in the student’s permanent file.

C. If you copy, or substantially copy, work from anyone else on a paper, the work must be put in quotes and the source(s) cited. Otherwise, it is plagiarism. If plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty are found on a group work assignment, it is possible that every member of the group will be punished. It is to your advantage to check out anything that does not seem like the work of your group members or colleagues. Written assignments are subject to verification using Turnitin for plagiarism.

UNL Writing Center
The UNL Writing Center can provide you with meaningful support as you write for this class as well as for every course in which you enroll. Trained peer consultants are available to talk with you about all forms of communication, including lab reports, presentations, research papers, cover letters, and application essays. You can visit at any stage of the process, from brainstorming and organizing ideas through polishing a final draft. The UNL Writing Center is located in 102 Andrews Hall, with evening hours in the Adele Hall Learning Commons and other satellite locations. You can schedule 25- and 50-minute appointments any time by visiting unl.mywconline.com. For more information about the Writing Center, including hours and other locations, please visit unl.edu/writing.

Weather/Fire
Every UNL campus building has emergency shelter and evacuation plans. Please familiarize yourself with the plans of each building in which you take classes or attend meetings. Make sure to note the routes to the lowest level of the buildings for shelter during inclement weather, as well as exits from the buildings in the event of fire or other emergency. For more information on emergency procedures visit emergency.unl.edu.

Medical
In the event of a medical emergency in the classroom immediately call 9-1-1 and take steps to assist the individual as needed. For details on what to do during Medical Emergencies, visit the Medical Emergencies handbook.

Active Shooter/Physical Attack: visit emergency.unl.edu
- Run - If there is a clear and safe escape route.
- Hide - If there is no escape and you can get to a secure location to hide.
- Fight - If your only option is to defend yourself, fight as if your life depended upon it.