

**The University of Georgia
Department of Kinesiology**

Course:

KINS 3580
Sport and the Black Culture

Instructors:

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Office Hours: Tues. 10-12; Weds. 10-12, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will be a cultural analysis of sport and the Black culture. It will address the way sport has evolved from being merely a physical activity to a cultural expression in the Black community. It will view the historical patterns and current conditions of Blacks' participation in sport through various articles, videos, and books. Various theories used to explain Black's participation and dominance in certain sports will be addressed. The course will also examine how many Blacks have used sport as a means of resistance, survival, and social mobility. This course will use a cultural studies approach to examining sport and the Black Culture.

Course Objective:

Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

- Deconstruction of the concept race
- Define the concept of Black Culture and discuss its origin
- Understand the historical presence of Blacks in Sport and there current impact of Sport, nationally and internationally
- Demonstrate an understanding of how sport has functioned in Black communities as a cultural expression, political tool, and a means of social mobility
- Demonstrate knowledge of the theories used to explain Black's presence and dominance in certain sports
- Demonstrate knowledge of the current issue involving sport, race, and the global market

Required Readings

Books:

Elevating the Game – Nelson George
Third and a Mile: From Fritz Pollard to Michael Vick--an Oral History of the Trials, Tears and Triumphs of the Black Quarterback – William C. Rhoden
The New Plantation: The Internal Colonization of Black Student-Athletes - Billy Hawkins
Living through the Hoop: High School Basketball, Race, and the American Dream – Reuben May

Articles:

There will be additional articles assigned. These articles will be put on WebCT or distributed in class.

Videos that will supplement class discussions:

Race, Culture, and Biology
 White Man's Burden
 The Journey of the African-American Athlete
 Will to Win
 Soul of the Game
 Stride to Glory
 Don't Look Back – Satchel Paige Story
 The Great White Hope
 Muhammad Ali: The Greatest
 White Men Can't Jump
 The Air Up There (1994)
 The Hurricane
 The Jesse Owens Story
 The Jackie Robinson Story
 Hoop Dreams
 Michael Jordan - His Airness
 Remember the Titans
 He Got Game
 Ali – The Muhammad Ali Story
 The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings
 Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream
 The Joe Louis Story
 The Tiger Woods Story
 Third and a Mile: The Emergence of the Black Quarterback
 Black Magic
 The Express

Course Requirements and Grading

Grades will be determined by the following:

- 10% Class participation and attendance (discussion groups performance)
- 20% 4 Viewpoint essays on selected videos (5 points each)
- 40% 4 Book Critiques (10 points each)
- 30% Final Exam (M/C & essay format)

Grading Scale:

A = 4.0	A- = 3.7	
B+ = 3.3	B = 3.0	B- = 2.7
C+ = 2.3	C = 2.0	C- = 1.7
D = 1.0		
F = 0.0		

Some of the videos will be viewed in class, and some will need to be viewed outside of class. You will need to view the video, write a review, and/or answer questions that will be assigned in class. The answers to the questions should be typed, spell & grammar checked, double-spaced using 12-point font, and turn in the class immediately following the showing of the video for full credit (late assignments will lose a letter grade for each class day it is late).

Book critiques will include a brief summary of the book: thesis, main points, and conclusions. They should be no more than two pages in length, typed, spell & grammar checked, double-spaced using 12-point font. Date of each critique will be announced.

Attend each lecture - absences will require an official excuse notice from a doctor or the University in order to be excused: two or more will result in a reduction in letter grades and possible multiple reductions in letter grades.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1

Introduction - (course objective, requirements, and discussion on Black culture); define Cultural Studies as a tool for examining sport and the Black culture. Examining the Black Culture from the perspectives of Dr. E. Franklin Frazier and Dr. Melville Herskovits: What is the origin of Black Culture?

Week 2-3

Issues in Defining & Deconstructing Race in America:

- *Who is Black?* – Dr. Floyd James Davis

Week 4-5

History of Blacks Influence in Sports:

- *Hard Road to Glory* – Arthur Ashe, Jr.
- *Elevating the Game* – Nelson George

Week 6 -9

Professional Sport, Race, and the Media:

- *Third and a Mile: From Fritz Pollard to Michael Vick--an Oral History of the Trials, Tears and Triumphs of the Black Quarterback* – William C. Rhoden

Week 10-12

Black Athletes Experiences at the Collegiate Level:

- *The New Plantation* – Dr. Billy Hawkins

Week 13-15

Black Athletes Experiences at the Interscholastic Level:

- *Living through the Hoop* – Dr. Rueben May

Week 16

Review

Final Exam

- **Tue, May 5, 2009 (8:00 - 11:00 am)**

Academic Honesty Policy

Students at the University of Georgia are responsible for adhering to the Academic Honesty Policy. Specific regulations governing student academic content are contained in the Student Handbook. Please familiarize yourselves with these regulations. All academic work must meet the standards

contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at:
<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>