

Department of Kinesiology at the University of Georgia

Course: PEDS 4820
Social Aspects of Sport
Fall 2007 – 3 Credit Hours

Instructors: Dr. Billy Hawkins
bhawk@uga.edu
Office 367 Ramsey Student Center
Office Hours: Tues. 11-12; Weds.10-12; Thurs. 11-12 or by appointment
Telephone: 706.542.4427

Akilah Carter
rcarter@uga.edu
Office Hours: Available by appointment

Required Book and Materials for the Course:

- Coakley, Jay. J. (2006). *Sports In Society: Issues and Controversies (9th ed.)*. St. Louis: C.V. Mosby Co.
- Videos and additional articles will also be used to supplement course materials

Course Description:

This course examines sport sociology and contemporary issues and controversies of various pertinent topics in sport to assist the sport management practitioner in understanding the broader societal aspects of sport. There will be contributions ranging from theoretical perspectives to the study of social life, to include interactions and relationships of sport in the social context.

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course: deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Course objectives:

- Demonstrate the use of sport sociology to study sport in society.
- Provoke critical examination of sport in daily lives.
- Facilitate research, theory, and practical application of sport in society.

Evaluation Requirements:

• Class Assignments and Activities	15%
• Exam 1 (MC/Essay)	15%
• Midterm Exam – Cumulative (MC/Essay)	20%
• Exam 3 (MC/Essay)	15%
• Final Exam – Cumulative (MC/Essay)	25%
• Attendance and Participation in discussion groups	<u>10%</u>
	100%

We reserve the right to change the structure of the assignments, exams, etc.

Grading Policy:

Students with questions/concerns regarding the grading of assignments may discuss their concerns after 24 hours from the assigned grade. Student must submit a written grievance

outlining the points of concern. Upon receipt of the notice a meeting will be set up to discuss improvements.

A Culture of Honesty:

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible for becoming informed about those standards before performing any academic work.

Disability or Health Related Issues:

Students with a disability or health related issue who need a class accommodation should make an appointment to speak with instructors as soon as possible. See the Disability Service website for more information: <http://www.dissvcs.uga.edu/>

Attendance Policy:

In order to receive full credit for attendance and participation, perfect attendance is required. The only absences that will be excused are absences that are officially approved. More than two unexcused absences will result in a one-letter grade reduction in the final grade.

Tentative Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment Due
1	Aug. 16	Introduction to Course Material: Sociology of Sport	Chapter 1	
2	Aug. 21 & 23	Sociology of Sport: What is it and why study it?	Chapter 1	
3	Aug. 28 & 30	Using Theories: How can they help us study sports in society?	Chapter 2	
4	Sept. 4 & 6	Sports and the Media: Could they survive without each other?	Chapter 12	
5	Sept. 11 & 13	Sports and the Economy: What are the characteristics of commercial sports?	Chapter 11	Exam 1
6	Sept. 18 & 20	Deviance in Sports: Is it out of your control?	Chapter 6	
7	Sept. 25 & 27	Violence in Sports: How does it affect our lives?	Chapter 7	
8	Oct. 2 & 4	Sports and Socialization: Who plays and what happens to them?	Chapter 4	
9	Oct. 9 & 11	Sport and Children: Are organized programs worth the effort?	Chapter 5	Midterm Exam
10	Oct. 16 & 18	Sports in High School and College: Do varsity sport programs contribute to education?	Chapter 14	
11	Oct. 23 & 25	Sports and Politics: How do governments and globalization influence sports?	Chapter 13	Fall Break No class 10/25
12	Oct. 30 & Nov. 1	Sports and Politics: How do governments and globalization influence sports?	Chapter 13	
13	Nov. 6 & 8	Social Class: Do money and power matter in sports?	Chapter 10	Exam 3
14	Nov. 13 & 15	Gender and Sports: Does equity require ideology changes?	Chapter 8	
15	Nov. 20 & 22	Race and Ethnicity: Are they important in sports?	Chapter 9	Thanksgiving No class 11/22
16	Nov. 27 & 29	Sports and Religion: Is it a promising combination?	Chapter 15	Final Review

17	Dec. 11	Tuesday, 8am – 11am		Final Exam
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Performance Objectives

At the completion of each of the following chapters, the student should be proficient in the areas below.

The Sociology of Sport

- Define and discuss various terms associated with the social aspects of sport.
- Be able to define what the sociology of sport is and how is it different from psychology of sport.
- Discuss how sport is related to various social institutions in our society.

The Use of Social Theory

- Describe and know the limitations of the major theoretical approaches to the study of sport in society.
- Provide examples of research inspired by these theoretical approaches.
- Describe the policy implications associated with these major theoretical approaches.

Sports and the Media

- Know the unique features of the media in today's society.
- Know the ways in which sport and the media have become inter-connected.
- Describe the images and messages that are often emphasized in the media coverage of sport in North America.
- Discuss media logic and how it is fulfilled in sport.

Sports and the Economy

- Discuss the conditions that must exist for commercial sports to emerge and prosper.
- Understand how commercial sports influence the way sport is played and organized.
- Know who owns, sponsors, and promotes sport, and what are their interests.
- Discuss how the amount professional athletes earn correlate with their legal status in different sports.

Deviance in Sport

- Define the problems that researchers face when studying deviance in sport.
- Define deviance and know how to identify deviant behavior in sport.
- Discuss why athletes use performance-enhancing drugs and why it is difficult to control the use of drugs in sport.

Violence and Aggression in Sport

- Define and know the differences between violence and aggression.
- Discuss whether sport is a cure or a cause for violence and aggression in our society.
- Know the causes of violence among spectators and the recommendation for reducing this form of violence.

Sports and Socialization

- Define competition and discuss how it is different from other social processes.
- Know how competition is incorporated into sport and sport behaviors.
- Discuss whether competition in sport provides people with experiences that will make them more successful in the rest of their lives.

Performance Objectives continued

Sports and Children

- Define formal and informal games and know the differences between both forms.
- Know the difference in play activities and informal games of boys and girls.
- Have an understanding of what happens in organized sport programs for youth.

Sports in High School and College

- Know the arguments for and against interscholastic and intercollegiate sport.
- Discuss whether sport participation has an impact on the academic performance and social development of student athletes.
- Know the advantages or disadvantages (if any) schools, colleges and universities experience with athletic programs.
- Define some of the major problems associated with interscholastic and intercollegiate sport programs.

Sports and Politics

- Discuss why governments become involve in the sponsorship and control of sport, and how does this involvement occur in different societies.
- Know the political consequences of international sport events such as the Olympic Games.
- What are the political consequences of the Globalization of certain sports?

Social Class and Sport

- Discuss whether sport participation is truly open and democratic or is it connected with class relations.
- Define social mobility and its relationship to sport participation.
- Know how the opportunities in sport limit certain athletes' social mobility.

Gender and Sports

- Know the participation and equity issues, and the ideological and structural issues involved with women and sport.
- Define and discuss gender logic and how it is perpetuated in this society.

Race and Sports

- Define race and ethnicity.
- Discuss how racial ideology affects race and ethnicity in sport.
- Discuss sport participation patterns for different racial and ethnic groups in the United States.
- Define and discuss race logic and how it is perpetuated in this society.

Sports and Religion

- Know the similarities and differences that exist between sport and religion.
- Discuss why Christian organizations and sport beliefs closely related.
- Discuss if there are consequences of combining Christianity and sport.