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# Syllabus SOC 380U:002 Sports in Society Winter 2020

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Sports and athletics are an important part of our society and culture. Many people are involved in sporting events as participants or spectators, and many people are active in exercise and organized athletic programs. Sociologists study sports in several ways; from the individual perspective, the team perspective, and from the perspective of society as a whole. Sports reflect the values of your society and culture, and we find in sports all of the issues we have in our society, both good and bad. Not only do we find incidents of racism, sexism, and violence in sports, but we also find positive aspects such as teamwork, leadership, and cooperation.

This is a class that emphasizes student participation. Students are expected to come to class having read and thought about the material and to be prepared to participate in class discussion. A part of the student's grade will be based on class participation.

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Professor:** Grant Farr

**Course Email:** Grant Farr at [farrg@pdx.edu](mailto:farrg@pdx.edu)

**Office Hours:** Office hours are from 9:30 to 10:00 in Cramer 217, or by appointment.

**Classroom:** SH 212 (Shattuck Hall)

## TEXTBOOK

**Title:** *Sports in Society*

**Authors:** Grant Farr, Ian Farr, and Danny Hannun

**Publisher:** Great River Learning

This is an online textbook. Since many of the assignments and quizzes are in the book, *all students must buy the book*. The book is available at the bookstore or directly from the publisher.

For information on ordering the textbook go to [www.grtep.com](http://www.grtep.com).

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC). Students with accommodations approved through the DRC are responsible for contacting me prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations, but who have not yet obtained approval through the DRC should contact the DRC immediately at 503-725-4150. DRC recommended accommodations are NOT retroactive.

### Title IX Reporting:

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you will find a list of individuals at this website, <https://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help>.

## QUIZZES

Each week, you are required to complete a quiz covering the week's course materials. The quizzes consist of 10 multiple choice and 10 true/false questions. The quizzes are in the textbook at the end of each chapter. Quizzes are open book and cover material from the textbook and online reading.

Quizzes are available beginning at 7am each **Monday** morning and must be completed prior to 11:30 pm on **Sunday** night. Since the quizzes are about the assigned reading, I suggest you complete the assigned readings before taking the quizzes.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

**Week One:** January 7 and 9

Topic: Introduction to class

Reading: Chapter One

Discussion:

What is sociology?

What has sports meant to you?

**Week Two:** January 14 and 16

Topic: Intercollegiate Sports

Reading: Chapter Two

Speaker: PSU Athletic Director, Valerie Cleary

Discussion:

What has been the history of college sports?

What role should sports play in college?

Does intercollegiate sports hurt or help colleges?

**Week Three:** January 21 and 23

Topic: International Sports

Reading Chapter Three

Speaker: Mariel Zagunis: Olympic Gold medalist

Discussion:

What is the sports scene around the world and who controls it?

What should be done about the Olympics?

**Week Four:** January 28 and 30

Topic: Race, Ethnicity and Sports

Reading Chapter Four

Speaker: Willie Halliburton

Discussion:

How has race played a role in sports?

Can sports solve racism?

**Week Five:** February 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Topic: Indigenous Nations and Mascots

Reading: Chapter five

Speaker: Native American TBA

Discussion:

Who are the indigenous peoples?

What role have indigenous peoples played in sports?

Should teams use Native American mascots or names?

**Week Six:** February 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

Topic: Gender and Title IX

Reading: Chapter six

Speaker: Meadow McWhorter, Head Coach Women's Softball

Discussion:

Are women just as good as men at athletics?

What role has Title IX played in making women's sports equal to men's?

**Week Seven:** February 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

Social Stigmas and Homophobia

Speaker: Student Discussion Panel

Reading: Chapter Seven

Discussion Questions:

Why are there not more gay male athletes?

What social stigmas do men and women athletes face?

**Week Eight:** February 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Violence in Sports,

Reading: Chapter Eight

Speaker: Anton Cederholm, Professional Hockey player

Discussion Topics:

Is there a link between violence and sports?

Why are some sports so violent?

How can we make campuses safer?

**Week Nine:** March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

Social Issues in Athletics,

Reading: Chapter Nine

Speaker: Antonio Jackson, Director of Building Blocks for Success.

Discussion:

What has been the role of athletes in social and political issues?

Do athletes have a special obligation to serve the community?

**Week Ten:** March 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Drugs and Supplements

Reading: Chapter Ten

Discussion:

What drugs and supplements are athletes using?

Should athletes be allowed to use any drug or supplement they want?

## **PAPERS**

All papers are due at class time on the due date. You should submit your paper to the drop box on the D2L website before class time. You should also bring the papers to class on the due date, they will be used for class discussion. That is, you should be able to summarize your findings to the class and be able to discuss what you found. The papers must be in double space 12 point.

### **First Paper. Attend a sporting event.**

Due Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup> at class time.

For this paper you should attend a sporting event. This event can be of any kind and at any level but should be an organized athletic competition. PSU athletic events are a good place to start. You should approach the athletic event as if you were an anthropologist who had just discovered a new civilization. In other words, approach the event as if you know nothing about it. Describe what the event was, what went on, where it was, who was in the audience, what was the sport, who won, your impressions of the event, and anything else that you found interesting. The key is to describe the event as if you were seeing it for the first time. Come to class prepared to discuss your findings. Paper length: Five pages You should submit your paper to the class D2L drop box, and also bring a copy to class to class discussion.

### **Paper Two: Interview a minority coach.**

Due Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> at class time.

For this paper you will interview a minority coach at Portland State or at another institution. You should read chapter four in the textbook carefully and use that information to frame your questions. What has their experience as a minority athlete and as a coach? Have they faced discrimination in their experience as an athlete and/or as a coach? Do they feel that they have had equal chances to be successful? Do they feel that athletics is a way for minorities to get ahead in life, or is athletics just another trap? Come to class prepared to discuss your findings. You should submit the list of questions you asked in addition to the paper. Paper length: Five Pages.

### **Paper Three: Interview a female coach.**

Due Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup>.

For this paper you should interview a female coach. To prepare for the interview read chapters six and seven carefully and use the information in those chapters to frame your questions. How is being a female coach different from being a male coach? Is coaching women different than coaching men? If so, how?

Many of the coaches of women's teams are men; do they think this is fair? Would they feel comfortable coaching a man's team? What kind of discrimination do women athletes face that is different than male athletes face? Do they think that Title IX has created a level playing field, or is there still discrimination towards women athletes? What kind of pressure do women athletes face? You should submit the list of questions you asked in addition to the paper. Paper length: Five Pages

#### **Paper Four: Violence.**

Due Thursday, February 27.

For this paper you should explore the issue of violence in athletics. This can be violence on the court or field, violence in the stands, or domestic violence. Specifically are athletes more prone to commit acts of domestic violence? What evidence is there that athletes commit more domestic violence, or are they being unfairly singled out? What can be done to reduce the amount of domestic violence on campus, including date rape? What would you propose that Portland State do to confront this problem, or do you think there is no problem?

Paper Length: Five pages. Come to class ready to discuss you findings.

#### **Paper Five: Interview an Athletic Trainer.**

Due Thursday March 12.

For this paper you will interview a professional athletic trainer either at Portland State or at another school or university. You should read chapter ten carefully to help you form your questions. Specifically your interview should focus on what the main concerns of the training staff are with drugs and supplements. What are the physical and medical consequences of using certain drugs and supplements? Which drugs and supplements are they especially concerned about? How do they test the athletes, or do they? How does the NCAA, or whatever athletic organization they, are in test for illegal drug use? Since testing does not catch very many athletes, what do they think the solution should be?

Come to class prepared to discuss your findings. You should submit the list of questions you asked in addition to the paper. Paper Length: Five Pages

#### **GRADING**

WEEKLY QUIZZES	200 POINTS (20 EACH)
PAPERS	250 POINTS (50 EACH)
<u>DISCUSSION PARTICIPTION</u>	<u>50 POINTS</u>
TOTAL	500 POINTS