
Syllabus

SOC 380U:001

Sports in Society

Fall 2020



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 of us 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 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.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor: Grant Farr farrg@pdx.edu

Teaching Assistant: Chela Linbrunner cjl2@pdx.edu

Course Questions: For information or questions regarding the weekly quizzes contact the professor Grant Farr. For information or questions regarding the discussion posts contact the teaching assistant Chela Linbrunner.

Office Hours: Please contact us via email. We will respond most evenings.

COURSE DELIVERY

This course meets online from September 28th 2020 to December 6th, 2020. This class is fully online and available on D2L. There are no in class meetings.

TEXTBOOK



Title: Sports in Society

Authors: Grant Farr, Ian Farr, and Danny Hannun

Publisher: Great River Learning

This is an **online book**, there are no hard copies available. Since many of the assignments and all of the quizzes are in the book, ***all students must buy the book***. The book is available at the bookstore or directly from the publisher. You need to get the book right away since there are assignments in the book during the first week of class.

For information on ordering the textbook go to www.grlcontent.com

COURSE ORGANIZATION: This course is organized in weekly learning modules. Each week begin at 7:00 am Monday morning and end at 11:30 Sunday night.

- **Quizzes:** Quizzes are available in the textbook at the end of each chapter. You must complete and submit each week's quiz by Sunday night at 11:30. After you take the quiz make sure that you hit the submit command to submit your quiz. Once the deadline has passed, you cannot go back to the quiz.
- **Original Post:** Each student will be assigned to a discussion group and must submit an original post to that group by no later than 11:30pm **Thursday** night of each week. Posts must be written on the topic of the week that they are assigned, so that other students may have adequate time to formulate responses. Discussion topics are posted on D2L each week.
- **Discussion Posts:** Discussion posts are responses to original post made by others in your discussion group. To receive full credit you must respond to three other original posts by members of Your discussion posts are due between **Friday** morning and 11:30 pm **Sunday** night.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The reading assignment will correspond with the book in the following manner.

1. Week One	Chapter One:	Introduction
2. Week Two	Chapter Two:	Intercollegiate Sports
3. Week Three	Chapter Three:	International Sports
4. Week Four	Chapter Four:	Race, Ethnicity in Sports
5. Week Five	Chapter Five:	Indigenous Nations and Mascots
6. Week Six	Chapter Six:	Gender and Title IX
7. Week Seven	Chapter Seven:	Social Stigmas and Homophobia
8. Week Eight	Chapter Eight:	Violence in Sports
9. Week Nine	Chapter Nine:	Sports and Social Issues
10. Week Ten	Chapter Ten:	Drugs and Supplements

ONLINE VIDEOS AND READINGS FOR DISCUSSION POSTS

Each week, in addition to your textbook, there are a number of online videos and readings to help you prepare your discussion post. These readings and videos cover topics related to the weekly discussion topics. You are not required to read or watch all the material but should choose a number of them to add and enhance your discussion posts. Due to the constant stream of events in the sporting world, you may also choose to incorporate material of your own choosing.

DISCUSSION POSTS:

DISCUSSION GROUPS: You have been assigned to a discussion group. There are about 10 people in each discussion group. To find your discussion groups, go to **activities** then to **discussions**. You will remain in the same discussion group for the entire term.

ORIGINAL DISCUSSION POSTS:

Each week there will be a discussion topic for you write about. These discussion posts are the cornerstone of this course. Each week you will have an opportunity to engage your classmates in one discussion forum prompt. You are expected to use your textbook, the optional online videos, and readings in order to respond

to the prompt sufficiently. Citations are required for information or ideas you get from written material, but your opinion and insight is also expected. Your weekly discussion post is worth 20 points and must be posed **by 11:30 pm Thursday** each week.

IMPORTANT: You should think of your original discussion posts as short, formal writing assignments. As in all academic writing, you should make sure the tone is professional and not too casual. AND, you must properly cite your sources. Here are a few rules that are sometimes forgotten:

- The original post is at least 500 words and introduces a new idea or is a meaningful response to the prompt. Try to think a bit more analytically about the topic/topics at hand. What questions do you have? What qualms do you have?.
- Ideas or thoughts that are not your original ideas should be properly cited, indicating the author. This applies to both paraphrasing and quoting. Standard citation style should be used.

If you are not familiar with these rules of writing, you should consult a writing manual or seek support from the PSU Writing Center or a tutor. Here is a good online resource you may use - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/>.

RESPONSE POSTS:

Response posts are your reaction to the original discussion posts of other people in your group. You response posts must be posted by 11:30 pm **Sunday** night of each week. No points will be given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday. In order to get a 20/20 on your response posts, respond thoughtfully to other people's ORIGINAL posts. When responding to another person's post, please either 1) expand the thought, 2) add additional insights, or 3) respectfully disagree and explain why. There is no word count for response posts.

Perhaps you can help the other students think about an issue in a new or different way or probe them as to why they believe a certain idea. Make connections to the readings. Pull in a couple of points or ideas from the week's assigned chapters and reference the page numbers.

Push yourselves, give things more thought, and remember that it's okay to question traditional thoughts if you see something differently. Your posts will be evaluated based on the evidence of thoughtful consideration of the course material and group members' comments. If you earn 40 points, this means that you are making outstanding original posts AND three outstanding responses to your classmates' original posts.

Here is how the discussion post will be graded.

0: No activity; did not respond to the forum and/or did not respond by the listed deadlines

20: Crafted an original response to the prompt but did not provide feedback to 3 or more classmates

40: Crafted an original response to the prompt and provided meaningful feedback to 3 or more classmates.

More details are available in the Discussion Prompt **How To** Folder on D2L

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** nights. Since the quizzes are about the assigned reading I suggest you complete the assigned readings before taking the quizzes,

EXTRA CREDIT

Students may choose either of the following prompts and earn up to an additional 20 points. The paper should be between two and three pages double spaced. Papers should be submitted in the dropbox found on D2L prior to 11:30 pm Sunday of week ten. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Sporting Event: Attend any sporting event in person (Televised events will not do) and write a paper on the event viewed through a sociological lens. To review the way sociologists see the world review chapter 1 of the textbook. The analysis of the sporting event is up to you, but in you could approach the sporting event from a functionalist perspective, a conflict perspective, a symbolic perspective, or a Marxist perspective.

Book Review: Read the book *40 Million Dollar Slave* by Willian Rhoden. Write a paper discussing the ideas in the book. (the book is available on-line and at the PSU Library).

GRADING

WEEKLY QUIZZES	200 POINTS (20 EACH)
WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS	400 POINTS (40 EACH)
TOTAL	600 POINTS

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.

QUESTIONS?

If you have trouble using any of the D2L tools, click on D2L Help at the top of the page. It is a very good idea to print a copy of the contact info found there in case you are unable to access D2L at some point during the term. If you are unable to access D2L, please contact the PSU Help Desk (503-725-HELP or help@pdx.edu). If, at any time during the term, you have questions about any of the course requirements or other information in the syllabus, assignment instructions, or learning modules please feel free to contact Grant Farr or Chela Linbrunner.