
NOTE: Be sure to read this syllabus over thoroughly and carefully. Some items are explained in more detail in the Week 1 Learning Module. The course syllabus is considered a contract between instructor and students. Your continued enrollment in the course indicates your agreement to abide by the terms of this contract.

Instructor Information

Name: Grant Farr

Course Email: Use D2L email tool – Insert farrg@d2l.pdx.edu. Please include our course id (SOC380) in the subject line of your email!

Business email: farrg@pdx.edu Please use only if D2L is unavailable.

Office Hours: Virtual, using D2L email tool; Weekday evenings; I will respond most evenings.

Teaching Assistants: Danny Hannun
Email: Dhannun@D2L.pdx.edu

Course Information

Course Title, Number: Sports in Society, SOC 380U

Course Delivery: This class is fully online and available to you at all times except when systems maintenance is performed. There are no face-to-face meetings.

Workload:
As a general rule, in any 4-credit course, students would be expected to spend 4 hours per week in the classroom and about 8-12 additional hours per week doing coursework outside the classroom. Since this class does not meet in the classroom, you should be prepared to spend about 12 to 16 hours per week completing required coursework. The time commitment may vary from week to week, depending on the amount of reading and other assigned work. Some weeks may require significantly fewer hours, some will require more.

Throughout the course materials, I have included reminders to you regarding the work that you must complete for this course. However, it is especially important in a fully online course for students to take responsibility for noting and meeting all course requirements and deadlines.

Active Participation:
Your participation in weekly online lessons is critical to your success in this course and therefore required.

You should access the Internet on a regular basis so that you can log on to the class at least every three days to check for announcements and email.

Work Independently:
All coursework must be completed individually, without help from other students or anyone else.

D2L: You should log on to the course on D2L at least every three days to check for announcements
and email. All coursework must be submitted in the D2L course. I will not accept any coursework via email.

If you encounter problems with D2L, click on D2L Help at the top of the page. If you are unable to access D2L at some point during the term, outside the scheduled outages, contact the PSU Help Desk for assistance. Problems with your computer or Internet connection are NOT acceptable reasons for deadline extensions.

**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.

### Required Textbooks


You can purchase the book at Portland State Bookstore [http://www.portlandstatebookstore.com](http://www.portlandstatebookstore.com)

### Course Description and Goals

Sports and athletics is 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 the 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.

Among the topics this class will include discussions on racial issues in sports, gender and the role of Title IX, the issue of Native American mascots, homophobia, violence, and the use of supplements and drugs.

### Course Policies

#### Deadlines:

- Students should complete all coursework prior to the date indicated in this syllabus and the assignment instructions on D2L.

- Problems with your computer or Internet connection are **NOT** acceptable reasons for deadline extensions. If you encounter computer problems, use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines.

- Quiz deadlines are firm. One missed quiz will not impact your course grade and therefore may not be made up. Subsequent missed quizzes may only be made up in the case of illness. Contact instructor immediately for approval.
• Discussion posts are due during the week they are assigned, with no points given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday. Since this is a group activity, it is not possible for an individual to make up this work after the deadline. No exceptions.

• Original Post: You must submit your original post by no later than midnight Wednesday night. (Only 1 point possible if submitted between Thursday and Saturday.)

• Response Posts: Submit your response posts between Thursday morning and midnight Saturday night. No credit will be given for response posts submitted before Thursday.

• Missed exams Makeup exams are only allowed up to one calendar week after the closing date of the original exam. If you are ill during the exam availability period, you should contact Danny or me as soon as possible so an extension can be negotiated. If you miss an exam for any other reason, 20% will be deducted from your score on a makeup exam.

**Conduct:**
It is required that you act appropriately and demonstrate mutual respect for everyone involved in this course, including the instructor, teaching assistant, and your classmates. Disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, allowing online access by unauthorized guests, profanity, verbal abuse or threats directed to others, general disrespect of others, will negatively impact your grade and may result in an F in the course.

I reserve the right to delete any posts that your classmates or I find to be non-academic and offensive.

Please review the University’s Student Code of Conduct and the [Acceptable Use Policy](#) that you agreed to when you received your PSU network access. These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise.

**Plagiarism:**
It is extremely important that you do not represent another person’s work as your own (plagiarism), whether intentional or not. It is your responsibility to acquaint yourself with the intricacies of academic writing and the appropriate use of another person’s work and/or ideas.

Please review the University’s [Student Code of Conduct](#). These policies will be strictly adhered to and enforced should the situation arise. You will not receive credit for any coursework that is not your own, original work.

**Grading:**
We have developed a scoring for your discussion posts and exams. Although most of the actual grading is done by the teaching assistant, the evaluation and scoring of your work is done under my close supervision.

Refer to [PSU’s Grading System](#) for an explanation of the letter grades and other grading policies. Be sure to note that a C indicates satisfactory work. Meeting minimum requirements in a satisfactory manner is C work, NOT A work! In other words, students must do work that is significantly above and beyond the minimum requirements to earn a grade higher than C. Students taking the course with a Pass/No Pass grading option must earn a C- (70%) or better in the course in order to pass.
Course Structure: Weekly Modules and Instructions

This course is organized in WEEKLY LEARNING MODULES. **The weeks begin at 6:00 am Sunday morning and end at midnight on Saturday night.** This weekly structure may not be consistent with other online courses you have taken, or are currently taking, so please be sure to note this schedule so you can plan accordingly.

**Required online activities are described in the weekly modules, which are accessible in the Course Content area.**

Each WEEKLY LEARNING MODULE includes:

**Instructor’s Review of the weeks material**
Includes important course content provided by the instructor, often intended to supplement other required readings. This material will be covered on quizzes and exams.

**Reading Assignment**
Indicates which text chapters and online articles are required reading each week. This material will be covered on quizzes and exams.

**Online Videos**
Each week there will be a number of online videos. These videos cover topics in each week material. The information in the videos will be an important part of the weekly quiz and the weekly discussion topics.

**Group Discussion Assignments**
You will be assigned to a discussion group along with several of your classmates. Click on the Discussions link in the learning module to see the instructions.

Each week you will be required to discuss a particular topic in your group, then respond to a minimum of two group members’ original postings.

**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:

- Any direct quote, whether a phrase or a full sentence or more, must be indicated with quotation marks.
- All direct quotes require that you cite the author and page number. (If you are referencing my lecture, just use (Farr, Week 5 Lecture)).
- Any and all ideas that are not your own, original ideas must be properly cited, indicating the author. This applies to both paraphrasing and quoting.

Failure to follow these rules will result in reduced scores.

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/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/).
I expect you to submit work that is appropriate for an upper division college course. While content should be our main focus in these assignments, I cannot accept any form of plagiarism.

**Original Post:** You must submit your original post by no later than midnight **Wednesday** night. (A maximum of one point will be awarded for original posts submitted between Thursday and Saturday.) Each week, carefully read the discussion assignment instructions. In order to receive 3/3 points on your original post, it must be submitted within the required timeframe and answer all of the questions asked. Also, it must go above and beyond by contributing more analysis and thought to the discussion. A score of 3 not only shows that you put thought into your posting but also that you’ve introduced an original idea or ideas about the topic. What did you read about this week or see in the videos that you can add to the discussion? I am looking for you to make connections to the lecture material and/or the readings and videos. Be sure to reference the page numbers of the ideas you are tying into your post. Try to think a bit more analytically about the topic/topics at hand. What questions do you have? What qualms do you have? What is something that you can bring from the outside that is interesting to add to the conversation?

**Response Posts:** Submit your response posts between **Thursday** morning and midnight **Saturday** night. (A maximum of one point will be awarded for response posts submitted prior to Thursday.) Discussion posts are due during the week they are assigned, with no points given for submissions posted after midnight Saturday. In order to get a 3/3 on your response posts, respond thoughtfully to at least 2 or 3 other people’s ORIGINAL 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. Provide your own insight. Again, 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 participation in weekly discussions is worth 25% of your overall course grade. Your posts will be evaluated based on the evidence of thoughtful consideration of the course material and group members’ comments using the scoring rubric found in the **Tip Sheets** module. If you earn 6/6 points, this means that you are making outstanding original posts AND outstanding responses to your classmates’ original posts.

**Quiz**

Each week, you are required to complete a quiz covering the week’s course materials. The quizzes consist of 5 to 10 multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes are open book and cover material from the instructor’s lectures, textbooks and online readings.

Quizzes are available beginning at 6 am Sunday mornings and must be completed prior to 11:59 pm on **Saturday** nights.

You are allowed 2 attempts at each quiz and a different but similar set of questions will be presented with each attempt. Your highest score will be recorded. I suggest you complete the assigned readings, take the first attempt, then print your quiz and look up all the questions you missed. Some of the same questions are likely to be included in your second attempt as well. You should print your completed quizzes and use them as study guides for exams.

At the end of the term, your lowest quiz score of the quarter will be dropped. Thus, if you do miss one quiz, it will not affect your grade. The remaining scores will be averaged and weighted at 25% of your overall course grade.

Once you begin a quiz, do not exit until you have completed it. Doing so may use up one of your two
attempts and may prevent you from using any additional attempts. If you encounter any problems, click on D2L Help at the top of the page.

**Checklist**
Each week I provide a checklist so you can check off the work as you complete it and know if there is more work to be completed.

## Course Exams

There will be two online, open-book exams. The midterm will be available from Thursday through Saturday of **week 5**; the final will be available from Saturday of week 10 through Monday of **Finals Week** (week 11).

Each exam is timed and you will have just one attempt to complete it. The exams will cover all online lectures, textbook readings, and online readings and will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. As is standard with all essay exam questions, your responses will be evaluated based on the number of relevant ideas you take from the course readings and how well you incorporate these ideas into your response. Generally, the more relevant ideas you correctly and clearly incorporate in your response, the more points you will receive.

**You must complete both exams in order to pass the course.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Availability from</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Material covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>6:00 am Thursday, April 28</td>
<td>11:59 pm Saturday, April 30</td>
<td>Weeks 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>6:00 am Saturday, June 3</td>
<td>11:59 pm Monday, June 4</td>
<td>Weeks 6-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Grading Structure:

The various types of coursework are weighted at 25% of your overall course grade. The scores on your coursework will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Weighted points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes (average score)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussions</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exams** - Take your total points, divided by the points possible and this will give you your percentage score. Multiply that percentage score by 25 to get your weighted points.

**Quizzes** – drop your lowest score, and average the remaining scores. Since all quizzes have 25 points possible, your average will be your weighted quiz points.

**Discussions** – This one is a bit more complicated. Each week, your original post is worth up to 3 points and your response posts are worth up to a total of 3 points, for a max of 6 points per week. If you are earning 6 points per week, you can expect to earn all 25 weighted points. If you are earning around 5 points each week, this is a B range so you can expect to earn around 20 weighted points. If you are earning around 4 points per week, this is the C range and you can expect to earn around 17 weighted points, and so on.

**Extra credit:** There will be one opportunity to earn extra credit. This will be in the form of an additional essay question on the final exam.
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 post your question in the Ask the Instructor Q & A area in Discussions, where I will answer your question so that everyone can see the response.

If you have a question that is personal or confidential, that you just don’t want your classmates to see, please feel free to contact Danny or me using the D2L email tool at farrg@d2l.pdx.edu or dhannun@d2l.pdx.edu.