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
Teaching Assistant: Danny Hannun
Course Email: You can contact Danny Hannun at dhannun@pdx.edu or Grant Farr at farrg@pdx.edu
Office Hours: Please contact us via email. We will respond most evenings. Student who would like to meet with the professor in person are welcome to do so, please let us know and we will arrange a meeting.

COURSE DELIVERY
This course is fully online on D2L and meets from September 24, 2018 until December 2, 2018. There are no in class sessions.

TEXTBOOK

Title: Sports in Society
Authors: Grant Farr, Ian Farr, and Danny Hannun
Publisher: Great River Learning

“Sports has the power to change the world…It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to the youth in a language they understand. Sports can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers.”
Nelson Mandela, 1995
This is an online book, there are no paper versions of the book. 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. There are assignments in the book during the first week of class.

For information on ordering the textbook see registrationdoc

WORKLOAD AND CLASS PARTICIPATION
As a general rule, in any 4-credit course, students are 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. You should logon to the class on D2L at least three times a week to check for announcements and email.

All coursework must be submitted in D2L. We will not accept 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.

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.

COURSE POLICIES

Deadlines: Students should complete all coursework prior to the date and time indicated in the syllabus and further assignment instructions found on D2L.

- Computer Issues: Problems with your computer or internet connection are NOT acceptable reason for missing deadlines. If you encounter computer problems, use another computer to complete the work prior to the deadlines.
- Quizzes: The quiz deadlines are firm. Quizzes are available in the textbook at the end of each chapter. One missed quiz will not impact your course grade and therefore may not be made up. Subsequent missed quizzes may only be made up if there is a legitimate reason. If you miss a quiz, but have a legitimate excuse, contact Danny Hannun as soon as possible.
- 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 are assigned so that other students may have adequate time to formulate responses. Discussion topics will be posted on D2L each week.
- Discussion Posts: Discussion posts are responses to original posts made by others in your discussion group. Your discussion posts are due between Friday morning and 11:30 pm Sunday night.
- Final: The final deadline is firm, no makeups are allowed.
- Extra Credit: There is an extra credit project that students may elect to do. Information on the extra credit assignment are described below.

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 or general disrespect of others, will negatively impact your grade and may result in an F in the course. We reserve the right to delete any posts that your classmates or I find 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 philosophy:**
Refer to PSU’s Grading System for an explanation of the letter grades and other grading policies. 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 ORGANIZATION:**
This course is organized in weekly learning modules. Each week begins at 7:00 am Monday morning and end at 11:30 Sunday 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 on D2.

**WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS:**
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
10. Week Ten  Chapter Ten: Drugs and Supplements

**DISCUSSION POSTS:**
**DISCUSSION GROUPS:** You are assigned to a discussion group: To find your discussion groups, go to activities on D2L, then to discussions. You will remain in the same discussion group for the whole term.

**ORIGINAL DISCUSSION POSTS:** The discussion board is the cornerstone of this course. Each week you will have the opportunity to engage your classmates in a discussion forum prompt. You are expected to use your
textbook, and the optional online videos and readings, in order to create and respond sufficiently. Citations are required. These are not opinion-based assignments. You will have an opportunity to earn up to 40 points for your participation in these weekly discussion forums. You will be required to craft an original response to the weekly prompt. This response will be due each week by 11:30 pm Thursday. The response post will be due each week by 11:30 pm Sunday.

The following rubric will be used to grade the original discussion posts.

- **0 Points** No activity
- **20 Points** Crafted an original response to the prompt, but not responding to 3 or more classmates;
- **40 Points** Crafted an original response to the prompt and provided meaningful feedback to 3 or more classmates.

(More details on how to write your discussion posts is available in the How To folder in D2L.)

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

- A substantive original post is at least 500 words and introduces a new idea or is a meaningful response to the prompt. Try to think bit more analytically about the topic or topics at hand. What questions do you have? What qualms do you have?
- Any direct quote, whether a phrase or a full sentence or more, must be indicated with quotation marks.

**ONLINE VIDEOS AND READINGS FOR DISCUSSION POSTS**

You are expected to use your textbook and the optional online videos and readings in order to prepare your original posts. Proper citation in required. Each week there will be a number of online videos and readings. These readings and videos cover topics related to the weekly discussion topics you are not required to read and watch all the material, but you should choose a number of them to add and enhance your discussion posts. Due to the constant stream of events and controversies in the sporting world, you may also choose to incorporate material of your own choosing.

**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.
- Any and all ideas that are not your own 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.

**RESPONSE POSTS:**
Submit your response posts between **Friday** morning and **11:30 pm Sunday** 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 20/20 on your response posts, respond thoughtfully to 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. There is no required word or page count for the 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 as they do. Provide your own insight. Again, make a connection to the readings. Pull in a couple of points or ideas from the week's assignment chapters and references the page numbers. Push yourselves, give things more thought, and remember that it is okay to question traditional thoughts if you see somethings differently. Your posts will be evaluated based on the evidence and thoughtful consideration of the course material and group members comments. If you earn 40 points it means that you are making outstanding original posts AND outstanding responses to your classmates’ original posts.

**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 and you should complete the assigned readings before taking the quizzes,

**EXTRA CREDIT**
Extra credit of up to 50 points may be earned. The extra credit report should be a paper of between two and three pages double-spaced submitted to the D2L dropbox before 11:30 pm Sunday of week ten. Late submissions will not be accepted. Students may choose between two extra credit assignments.

**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 text book. 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).

**FINAL EXAM**
There will be a final exam that will consist of a final paper due at the end of the term. For your final, you will select one of the discussion prompts from the previous weeks for further exploration. You may select any of the discussion prompts you like. Your final will be a 5-page paper submitted via the D2L dropbox. Make use of the corresponding textbook chapter to support your paper. Appropriate citations are required. Thank of the final as a more in-depth and comprehensive version of the weekly discussion. For example, if you select the week two discussion prompt “College athletes should be compensated financially”, your final should discuss this prompt by addressing whether you agree or disagree that college athletes should be paid using the information introduced in the course.

The final may be submitted during finals week, between 12/03/2018 and 12/09/2018.
GRADING
FINAL EXAM 100 POINTS
WEEKLY QUIZZES 200 POINTS (20 EACH)
WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS 400 POINTS (10 EACH)
TOTAL 700 POINTS

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 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 questions, please feel free to contact Grant Farr at farrg@pdx.edu or Danny Hannun at dhannun@pdx.edu.