

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
-W.B. Yeats

**University of Northern Colorado
Office of Extended Studies
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
SOC 374-945: Sociology of Sport
April 2-May 11, 2012**

Instructor: Angie Henderson
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**e-mail is the preferred method of communication*

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required readings:

All required readings will be posted on Blackboard under the button "Readings." Announcements will be made in class if new readings are added throughout the semester. Check Blackboard frequently for updates and announcements.

Recommended reading:

Coakley, Jay. 2007. Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies. 9th Edition.

There are newer editions, but they are more expensive and don't include that much new information.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the sociological study of sport. This course focuses on sports as social and cultural phenomena. We use sociological concepts and critical thinking to investigate such issues as:

1. How do sports and sport participation affect our lives?
2. How do sports impact our ideas about masculinity, femininity, class inequality, race and ethnicity, work, fun, achievement, competition, individualism, aggression and violence?
3. How are the organization and meaning of sports connected with social relations in groups, communities, & societies?
4. How are sports connected with important spheres of social life in societies (such as family, education, politics, economics, media, & religion)?

Course Objectives:

This course provides an overview of the significant sociological perspectives, social issues, and social science research pertaining to the phenomenon of sport as a social institution in society. After completing this course, students should be able to:

- (1) define and understand the foundational and contemporary sociological theories of sport;
- (2) sociologically explain historical and current issues in U.S. collegiate athletics, and apply the theories of sport to U.S. collegiate athletics

(3) sociologically explain how race, ethnicity, sex and social class predict sport participation, including access to sport, inequalities, and perceptions of athletes based on these characteristics.
critically analyze the social institution of sport for the ideologies it perpetuates;
(4)

Class Policies:

This is **not** an independent study class, where you go completely at your own pace. The course has 6 sections that will correspond with the 6 weeks of class. **You are responsible for completing all units for each section by a certain day and time.** Each section has assigned reading from either the textbook or another source, a corresponding assignment, a graded exam and other materials relevant to our course topics. Note too, that since this is a shortened term, we go at a faster pace than during the regular semester, because we cover the same amount of material as in a 15 week semester course.

Attendance & Participation Policy: Since this is an online class, it is impossible to take attendance. Therefore, you will be graded on your participation in a group discussion via Muddy Point sets. If you do not participate in your group's discussion by the due dates, you will earn a 0 for that part of the course.

Late Assignments: There are no make-up assignments, exams or quizzes in this course. You must turn in all material on time. We will be using "Safe Assignments" for turning in material online, so it is strongly recommended that you become familiar with how to submit assignments on Safe Assignment. If there is a technical glitch, it is YOUR problem, not mine. See the "Computer Compatibility and Other Technical Issues" found further in this document.

If you still choose to turn in an assignment past the deadline, you will automatically be deducted 30% of the grade, which for most of the assignments means you can earn no higher than a C. In most cases this will mean you will probably earn a D. **TURN ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSION IN ON TIME.**

Discussion Decorum: People often have very strong feelings about topics discussed on the discussion group boards, which is normal and appropriate, because many of the issues are difficult to deal with. One of the most difficult aspects of working with social problems is establishing healthy communications between people whose perspectives may vary a great deal. It is imperative to me that the classroom be a free place for all ideas and it is the responsibility of all participants to assure this occurs. Please make every effort to be considerate of others, even if you disagree with their viewpoint or presentation. **We will utilize a "FILTER" policy to control unnecessary, immature, irrelevant, and ignorant comments. If you violate the "FILTER" policy, you will be asked to leave the discussion group, and will be given one more chance to earn discussion points in another group. If you make inappropriate or otherwise irrelevant comments again, you will earn a "0" for the remaining discussion.**

Grading Policy:

Graded Elements: You will be graded through 3 Exams (at 30 points each), 1 assignment (at 25 points), 6 Muddy Point Question & Answer Sets (10 points each, 60 points total), a final project paper (100 points); and a Goodbye Letter (10 points)

Exams: Every exam will include ONE question to answer in essay form. **YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR ESSAY BEFORE THE DUE DATE/TIME** in order to receive credit. The rubric for grading the

exams is as follows:

1. Answer question accurately and thoroughly and in a sociological voice (10 points)
2. Employ critical thinking and synthesis of material (10 points)
3. Cite class notes, other scholarly sources*, or book in ASA format (10 points)
4. Answers are not to exceed one page in MS Word, single spaced (-5 points)

*A scholarly source may include any academic journal or book.

Assignments: There will be several options for assignments in this class. **YOU MUST COMPLETE ONE.** The options are all posted on blackboard under "Assignments" and the due dates are on each assignment handout. A rubric is also posted on each assignment.

Muddy Point Question and Answer Sets: For every day on the calendar that "Muddy Points Sets" are due, you must turn in ONE question electronically **AND YOU MUST ALSO** answer a classmate's Muddy Point question as well. Therefore, your question is worth 5 points, and your ANSWER to your classmate's question is worth 5 points. (10 points each WEEK).

TOTAL GRADED ELEMENTS:

3 Essay Exams (30 points each)	90 points
1 Assignment (25 points)	25 points
Muddy Point Q & As	60 points
Final Project Rough Draft	25 points
Final Project Paper	75 points
Goodbye Letter	10 points

Total 285 points

*A rubric will be used to grade assignments. This rubric will be presented with each item assigned.

Grading Scale:

A = 256-285 points

B = 228-255 points

C = 199-227 points

D = 171-198 points

F = 170 points or lower

Grade Posting: Grades will be posted in Blackboard.

Revise and Resubmit: The instructor reserves the right to allow students to revise and resubmit

Computer Compatibility and other Technical Issues

The platform we are using for the course is the Blackboard online system. Blackboard has information about how to make sure your computer is compatible for the course, so go to the blackboard home page for this information (<http://www.unco.edu/blackboard>). If you have difficulties or questions about the technology, please call the helpline shown below. **Students are responsible for making sure that their computers are compatible with the Blackboard system. I recommend that each student who is not taking the course on UNC campus computers contact our helpline before class begins, to discuss compatibility with a technician.** Please make sure yours is compatible, because computer crashes, etc. will not be an acceptable reason for late or missed work. The helpline number is (970) 351-4357.

Blackboard does not support the latest version of Internet Explorer (version 9) – version 8 is best.

You should have Microsoft Word, or Word-convertible WordPerfect, in order to upload projects that I can download and open. If you don't have MS Word, be sure to save anything you send with either an .rtf or .doc file extension, as some other programs will download this way. Please don't use Microsoft Works for word processing as it will not open on my computer (this program comes with new PCs as a free program), and don't upload documents that have been saved in any of the Web formats either. Our UNC computers now have MS 2007 installed, so I can open Microsoft Word 2007, as well as earlier versions of Word.

PowerPoint is not required but will make some of the course material run better. If you have MS Office but are not sure about PowerPoint, check your program files, because it might be there! PowerPoint documents that I've uploaded to course units will mostly be in PDF format, which just about any browser can open (although it may take a minute or so). If you don't already have Adobe PDF Acrobat reader on your computer, it is most likely that your computer will launch a download when you go to open your first presentation. If it does not, "Google" to find Acrobat Reader and it will give you the site for the free download.

Check your email and the Blackboard announcements page often!

I will sometimes communicate important information with you via email, so be sure to check it often. The default email for Blackboard is your UNC Bearmail. When I send mail to the whole class, I will use Blackboard, which means you must check your UNC Bearmail for information related to class! I also make frequent use of our Blackboard announcements page, so check that often too, even if you aren't planning to work on the course that day.

Please print and keep this handy, in case you need to call the help line number or otherwise look at the procedures during a time when your computer is not functioning. **Helpline: (970) 351 - 4357.**

Disabled Persons: It is University policy that no otherwise qualified disabled person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the University. Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary accommodations.

This syllabus is subject to change; students will be notified if and when changes are made. Students are responsible for in-class announcements that reflect course requirements.

How will you meet the objectives of this course?

Objectives	Activities	Assessment
Define & apply sociological theories of sport	Readings: (1) Sport & Society; (2) Chapter on Theories; (3) Hegemonic Masculinity Lecture notes provided (Unit 1)	Muddy Point Q & A Assignment Option #1
Sociologically explain historical and current issues in U.S. collegiate athletics, and apply the theories of sport to U.S. collegiate athletics	Readings: (1) Who Are Student Athletes?; (2) Models of Reform; (3) Athletes in Big-Time College Sport Lecture notes provided (Unit 2)	Muddy Point Q & A Exam 1 Assignment Option #2
Critically analyze how socioeconomic status influences sport participation and how these inequalities are perpetuated within the sport industry	Readings: (1) A Theory of the Preferred Worker; (2) White Men Can't Jump; (3) Social Class & Sport Lecture notes provided (Unit 3)	Muddy Point Q & A Assignment Option #3
Critically analyze how race & ethnicity influences sport participation and how these inequalities are perpetuated within the sport industry	Readings: (1) Blacks as Key Functionaries in Sport; (2) Blackballed; (3) Mascot Article Lecture notes provided (Unit 4)	Muddy Point Q & A Exam 3 Rough Draft of Final Paper Due
Critically analyze issues of sex & gender within sport, including inequalities from a micro- and macro-level	Readings: (1) When Bodies Are Weapons; (2) Silence, Sports Bras and Wrestling Porn; (3) Investigating Attractiveness Lecture notes provided (Unit 5)	Muddy Point Q & A Exam 3 Assignment Option #4
Critically analyze the relationship between sport and the media, as well as sport & the economy from both micro- and macro-perspectives	Readings: (1) Sport & Storytelling (pages 19-29); (2) The Male Consumer as Loser; (3) Pro Sports as Economic Catalyst Lecture notes provided (Units 5 & 6)	Muddy Point Q & A Exam 3 Final Paper Due

University Policies Regarding Student Conduct: In order to encourage and foster academic excellence, the University expects students to conduct themselves in accordance with certain generally accepted norms of scholarship and professional behaviors. Because of this expectation, the University does not condone any form of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and knowingly or recklessly encouraging or making possible any act of plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication. Academic misconduct is an unacceptable activity in scholarship and is in conflict with academic and professional ethics and morals.

Consequently, students who are judged to have engaged in some form of academic misconduct may be subject to (1) a zero or an "F" on the work in question, (2) an "F" in the course, (3) other academic penalties as outlined in the professor's course requirements and expectations, (4) disciplinary action as specified in the Sanctions for Misconduct section below, or (5) any combination thereof. Procedural due process, including the right to appeal, is to be followed in making a determination of whether academic misconduct has occurred.

Generally, a student's intentions will not be the primary consideration in the determination of whether academic misconduct has occurred. A student's intentions will usually be considered only during the process of deciding on the appropriate sanctions or penalties.

Plagiarism is the act of appropriating the written, artistic, or musical composition of another, or portions thereof; or the ideas, language, or symbols of same and passing them off as the product of one's own mind. Plagiarism includes not only the exact duplication of another's work, but also the lifting of a substantial or essential portion thereof.

Regarding written work in particular, direct quotations, statements which are the result of paraphrasing or summarizing the work of another, and other information which is not considered common knowledge must be cited or acknowledged, usually in the form of a footnote. Quotation marks or a proper form of indentation shall be used to indicate all direct quotations.

As long as a student adequately acknowledges his/her sources and as long as there is no reason to believe that the student has attempted to pose as the originator, the student will not be charged with plagiarism even though the form of the acknowledgment may be unacceptable. However, students should be aware that most professors require certain forms of acknowledgment and some may evaluate a project on the basis of form.

Cheating is the act of using or attempting to use, in examination or other academic work, material, information, or study aids which are not permitted by the instructor. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: Using books, notes, or calculators or copying from or conversing with others during an examination (unless such external aids are permitted by the instructor); having someone else do research, write papers, or take examinations; doing research, writing papers, or taking examinations for someone else; submitting large portions of the same work as part of the academic work for more than one course (unless such submission is permitted by the instructor).

Fabrication is the invention of material or its source and its use as an authority in academic work. Fabrication includes, but is not limited to: inventing the data for a scientific experiment; inventing the title and author of a publication in order to use the invented publication as a source; or knowingly attributing material to an incorrect source.

Federal Policies Regarding Your Privacy:

Throughout the course of the semester (and especially at the end of the semester), you may be wondering what your grade is, what you scored on an exam, or paper, etc. **I cannot legally e-mail you your grade without written consent.** Therefore, when you send me an e-mail at any time, I cannot respond with grade information unless you give me hand-written consent, with a signature, first. All spreadsheets that contain grade information will be posted outside my office and updated constantly with your “current grade” in the course up to that point. It is **your job** to look at that posting and find your grade information. As always, you are welcome to make an appointment with me to review your grades in person, but I cannot release information without written consent via e-mail, over the telephone, or especially to a third party (except those listed below). Please see the description of FERPA below for further details.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

o Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- ☑ School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- ☑ Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- ☑ Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- ☑ Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- ☑ Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- ☑ Accrediting organizations;
- ☑ To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- ☑ Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- ☑ State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Source: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

Library Services for Distance Education and Off-Campus Students: Obtaining Materials from UNC Libraries

Off-campus students residing within 50 miles of the UNC campus are required to come to the library and borrow materials in person. Students residing more than 50 miles from campus may request that materials be delivered to them. All requests must include complete citations. We will supply materials from the UNC Libraries, as well as materials from other libraries obtained via Interlibrary Loan. Articles will be delivered via email. Books will be mailed first class. Delivery time by U.S. postal service is approximately 1 week.

It is the responsibility of the student to return books by the date due. UNC does not pay return postage on books. For information on document delivery, call (970) 351-1446.

Requests for materials may be made through the following methods:

Online: <http://www.unco.edu/library/forms/distancerequest.htm>

By email: library.ocp@unco.edu

By fax: (970) 351-2540

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Honor Code

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate.

UNC's Policies

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link <http://www.unco.edu/dos/handbook/index.html>

Notice

The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

Student Satisfaction Evaluation

Participants will be asked to evaluate the workshop for instructors' knowledge, interest and enthusiasm as well as providing additional information on classes or topics which you would like to see developed as a future offering from UNC.

Course Withdrawal Information

In accordance with University and Colorado Department of Higher Education policy, if you drop this class after the course starts you will be assessed a drop fee. The drop fee is pro-rated up to the half-way point in the class. You are legally responsible for payment of full tuition once 50% of this course has been concluded. In order to be eligible to receive any refund of tuition, you must contact the Office of Extended Studies (1-800-232-1749) to formally withdraw from your class. Your refund, if applicable, will be based on the date of contact with our office. Withdrawals received via telephone during non-business hours will be processed and dated on the next working day. Failure to notify us will result in UNC tuition being owed even though you do not attend or complete the coursework.