

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF RECREATION, HEALTH, AND TOURISM

Sport, Culture, and Society (SPMT 304)
Fall, 2010

Course Description:

This course provides a sociological analysis of sports in American society. Using sociological constructs, this course will critically examine key components of sports and sport-related behaviors as they occur in social and cultural contexts.

Course Objectives:

Develop an understanding of how sociological theories and perspectives can be used to examine the role that sport plays within American society.

To examine sports critically and become familiar with the issues that are currently present within American sporting culture.

To study the recent research findings and theories from the sociology of sport that provide evidence regarding the benefits and drawbacks of sport participation.

Course Schedule:

Topic	Date □	Assigned Chapter(s)
Sociology of Sport and Defining Sport	September 2	1
Producing Knowledge About Sport/History of Sport	September 9	2-3
Sports and Socialization	September 16	4
Sports and Children	September 23	5
Mid-Term Examination I	September 30	1-5
Deviant Behavior and Sports	October 7	6
Aggression and Sports	October 14	7
Women and Sports Race and Sports	October 21	8-9
Social Class and Sports	October 28	10
Mid-Term Examination II	November 4	6-10
Economics and Sports	November 11	11
Sports and the Media Sports and Politics	December 2	12-13
Sports and Schools (High School, College)	December 9	14
Final Examination	December 16	11-14

Course Requirements:

Complete and demonstrate an understanding of assigned readings
Pass written examinations
Complete Book Review

Evaluation:

Mid-Term #1 (25%)
Mid-Term #2 (30%)
Final Examination (30%)
Book Review (15%)

Textbook:

Jay Coakley. Sport in Society: Issues and Controversies (tenth edition). Boston, Irwin-McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Book Reviews Selections: (Read one of the following)

Neil Swidey, The Assist
Optional Selection

Instructor:

Dr. Clayton Best
(H) (301) 681-5254 (Before 10 p.m.)
(E) cbes1@gmu.edu