

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF RECREATION, HEALTH, AND TOURISM

Sport, Culture, and Society (SPMT 304)
Spring, 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	January 19	1
Producing Knowledge About Sport/History of Sport	January 26	2-3
Sports and Socialization	February 2	4
Sports and Children	February 9	5
Mid-Term Examination I	February 16	1-5
Deviant Behavior and Sports	February 23	6
Aggression and Sports	March 2	7
Women and Sports Race and Sports	March 16	8-9
Social Class and Sports	March 23	10
Mid-Term Examination II	March 30	6-10
Economics and Sports	April 6	11
Sports and the Media Sports and Politics	April 13	12-13
Sports and Schools (High School, College)	April 20	14
Final Review	May 4	
Final Examination	May 11	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.)
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