SYLLABUS: Sports and Society (SYA4650) – Spring, 2015

Online Course

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Texts: (2)

Additional Required Readings are available online in Assignments Page of the Blackboard course website.

Required Videos: (2)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Of all the social institutions that social scientists study—family, religion, medial, government, medicine, race—sport is arguably the least studied in proportion to its societal impact. Sport plays a pervasive role in almost all of our lives as fans, players, and consumers. Despite this omnipresence, sports remain an understudied topic.

This course will attempt to analyze the ubiquity and impact of sports. We will explore the topic of sport from a critical perspective focusing especially on inequalities in gender, race, class, and power. This class will jointly examine sports as a social mirror that reflects status inequalities as well as the role of sports in perpetuating social inequalities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

* Apply a sociological perspective to current events in the sporting world.

* Critically analyze the assigned literature.

* Identify how sport shapes and is shaped by dominant ideologies and cultural values.

* Demonstrate various forms of social inequality and their connection to sports.

GRADING/EVALUATION*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.) 4 quizzes (16 points each)</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.) 9 discussion topics (3 points each)</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.) survey</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>101</td>
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The grading scale is as follows: 101-90= A; 89-88 = B-; 87-80 = B; 79-78 = B-; 77-70 = C; 69-68 = C-; 67-60 = D; 59 or less = F.

University Attendance Policy:
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

COURSE CONTENT:
All weekly assignments are posted in the “assignment” section of your blackboard course website.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY:
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “... be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

The Plagiarized Paper: A Definition
The Internet is changing the methods of obtaining plagiarized material. It is very easy for anyone to obtain papers written by others via the Internet and to extract wholesale sections of documents for insertion into his or her own papers. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own.

Your paper would be considered as “plagiarized” in part or entirely if you do any of the following:

   Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references.
Submit a paper in which you “cut and paste” or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

Deterring and Detecting Plagiarism: Turnitin.com

To deter and detect “Internet plagiarism,” FSU has acquired a site-wide license to Turnitin.com. This service scans uploaded materials to see if content has been copied from materials available on the Internet or from papers collected in its database.

Students agree that by taking this course the required assignments they submit may be submitted to Turnitin.com for review.

All submitted papers will become source documents in the Turnitin.com database and used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in papers submitted in the future. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of the use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Resources for Improving Your Writing and Research, and Avoiding Plagiarism

As an intellectually honest student, you will avoid plagiarism through the ways that you think, learn, formulate, and express your ideas. By performing according to the standards of this university and this course, you will not only avoid failure and dismissal from the university - you will develop a mental structure that will make your future learning more compelling and productive.

Whether you are “new” or “experienced” in university-level research and writing processes, you should take some time to review the following resources. They include checklists, guidelines, examples, and explanations on how to research and write papers without risk of plagiarism. The last item on the list provides you with a link to FSU’s Reading and Writing Center - another resource for all FSU students who wish to improve their research and writing skills.

- A checklist from Purdue University: Writing Research Papers: A Step-by-Step Procedure
- Guidelines and examples from the University of Alberta: Handouts and Online Resources for Students
- Practical steps and tips from the Internet Public Library: IPL Teen Space: A+ Research and Writing
- A multimedia interactive tutorial (requires Authorware plug-in) from the University of Dalhousie: Information Literacy Tutorials
Would you like clarification about the definitions and examples of plagiarism? Would you like other tips and resources? If so, review the following additional resources.

- A sample quiz to help students identify instances of plagiarism - [What is plagiarism at Indiana University?](#)
- [Examples of Plagiarism](#) from Princeton University
- [Turnitin.com Research Resources](#) for educators and students - definition, tips, guidelines, answers, and printable handouts for educators, and very useful for students

Finally, students in the course will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a “zero” for that particular assignment or possibly an “F” for the course and may be reported to the University Judicial Office. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**COURTESY IN THE CLASSROOM**

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. Therefore all students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner that is respectful of others. Repeated disruption of class will lead to penalties that reduce your final grade.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions need to be scholarly. Scholarly comments are:

- Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement.
- Related to the class and course material. Scholarly comments advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs.
- Finally, comments are to be delivered in normal tones and in a non-aggressive manner.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter
to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

(This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.)

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.