

Sociology of Sport—Sociology 324—M75 (Web)

Instructor: Dr. Jim Kanan
Online Office Hours: By Appt. or email

Office: 112 GH
Email: james.kanan@wku.edu

COURSE WEBSITE (BLACKBOARD & TEGRITY CAMPUS): <http://ecourses.wku.edu>.

You will use this website to watch lectures, take quizzes, take exams, submit papers, check grades, stay abreast of course updates, and have access internet readings.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

While the general pretext of this course is to have fun with one of the most visible institutions in society (sports), this is an upper-division Sociology course. Hence, there are a few academic objectives to be met. We will try to gain a better understanding of sport by studying it scientifically. Because this is a sociology class, the primary focus will be the application of sociological conceptions, theories, and ideas. We will look at the structure and organization of sport in society (particularly North American society) with an eye to analyzing sport critically. It is my hope that having completed this course, you will look at and understand sport in a new way as a result of having looked at it through a sociological lens. A critical analysis focuses on both positive and negative aspects of sport, both in the prominent way in which it factors into our lives and those around us, and in the way that it is organized in society. In many respects, sport provides great analogies to other life conditions and experiences, so a systematic understanding of the concepts and structures that are the infrastructure of sport should position you to be able to understand more thoroughly many of the features of society. In other words, we hope to gain a sense of how the institution of sports is increasingly influencing society and being influenced by it.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

Readings: (1) Coakley, Jay. 2015. *Sports in Society*. 11th Edition. McGraw Hill. (Available in bookstores or online) ISBN: 9780078022524
*Older editions of the text (9th, 10th) are acceptable, but may make reading quizzes slightly more challenging.
(2) Other readings as assigned (accessible as Adobe (.pdf) files through blackboard).

Chapter Assignments: There will be short (20 multiple choice) open-book quizzes associated with each of the assigned chapters in the Coakley text. Each quiz will be worth 10 points (0.5 points for each question). Once opened, you can save your work until you are ready to submit it. Once submitted, your assignment score will become final and the assignment cannot be re-opened to make changes. It will be available to you for studying purposes, until the end of the day when the exam for that section is taken.

Exams: There will be three exams that will count prominently toward your final grade. Each exam will cover roughly one-third of the course materials. The exams will be similar in format, consisting of multiple-choice and short answer/essay questions that draw on lectures, readings, and any videos you might watch. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Each exam may be taken at home, but should be taken without referring to notes or the textbook. In order to help with compliance, the exams will be timed (1 hour maximum) and once started, you must complete the exam in that sitting. Because the semester is very short, completion dates are suggested in the schedule below. Each exam may be taken as early as you'd like, but MUST be completed by the time indicated in the schedule.

Issue and Reaction Papers: You will be expected to write two (500 – 1000 words) issue papers, one for the first half of the course and the other for the second half. Each will be worth 40 points. Students will read and summarize articles relating to issues from the class. The summaries should include an overview of the article's main message(s), a description of how the article "fits" into the course, what was most interesting, and what you learned that you did not know before reading it. Due dates will be Wednesdays of the 2nd and 3rd weeks of the class. They are listed in the class schedule below.

COURSE GRADING:**(1) Exams:** There will be three 100-pt exams.

Exams = 300 points.

(2) Summary papers: (2 x 40 pts.) summary papers

Papers = 80 points.

(3) Chapter Assignments: 12 Assignments (12 x 10pts each)

Assignments = 120 points.

Total = 500 points.

Final Grades will be assigned according to the scale printed below. **Note** Final grades are determined by raw point totals, NOT percentage points.**

A = 450 – 500 pts.**B = 400 – 449 pts.****C = 350 – 399 pts.****D = 300 – 349 pts.****F = 299 or fewer pts.****COURSE OUTLINE**

* Recorded lectures and/or videos to be viewed through Tegrity Campus

| Dates | Topics | Reading Assignments |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Section 1: First Week of Class | Introduction to the Sociology of Sport | Coakley--Chapter 1 |
| | Lecture: Overview of the Sociology of Sport | Reading Quiz #1 |
| | Social Theories and Sports | Coakley--Chapter 2 |
| | Lecture: Sports and Theory in Sociology | Reading Quiz #2 |
| | History and Sports | Coakley--Chapter 3 |
| | Lecture: Sports Evolution Through History | Reading Quiz #3 |
| | Sports and Socialization | Coakley--Chapter 4 |
| | Lecture: Sports and Socialization Process | Reading Quiz #4 |
| EXAM 1—MUST be taken and completed between Friday morning (6AM) and Sunday night (11:59PM) of first week. | | |
| Section 2: Second Week of Class | Sports and Children | Coakley—Chapter 5 |
| | Lecture: Youth Sports | Reading Quiz #5 |
| | Deviance in Sports | Coakley—Chapter 6 |
| | Lecture: Deviance and Sports | Reading Quiz #6 |
| Wed of 2nd week by 11:59PM | Issue and Reaction Paper #1 | |
| | Violence in Sports | Coakley—Chapter 7 |
| | Lecture: Violence in Sports | Reading Quiz #7 |
| | Gender and Sports | Coakley—Chapter 8 |
| | | Reading Quiz #8 |
| | | Video: Title IX* |
| EXAM 2—MUST be completed between Friday (6AM) and Sunday (11:59PM) of second week. | | |

| Dates | Topics and Lectures | Reading Assignments |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Section 3: Third Week of Class | <u>Race and Ethnicity in Sports</u> Lecture: Race/Ethnicity in Sports | Coakley—Chapter 9 Reading Quiz #9 |
| | <u>Sports and Social Class</u> Lecture: Sports and Social Class | Coakley—Chapter 10 Reading Quiz #10 |
| | <u>Sports and Economics</u> Lecture: Sports and Economics* | |
| | Wed of 3rd Week by 11:59PM | |
| | Article Reaction Paper #2: | |
| | <u>Sports and Education</u> Lecture: Sports and Education* | Coakley—Chapter 14 Reading Quiz #11 |
| | <u>Sports and Religion</u> Lecture: Sports and Religion* | Coakley—Chapter 15 Reading Quiz #12 |
| | FINAL EXAM—MUST be completed between Friday (6AM) and Sunday (11:59PM) of final week. | |