

# Sociology of Sport—Sociology 324—M75

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May Term 2017

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## *COURSE WEBSITE:*

Website is available on Blackboard at WKU. It can be accessed at [blackboard.wku.edu](http://blackboard.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*. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. McGraw Hill. (Available in bookstores or online) ISBN: 9780078022524. \*Older editions of the text (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>) are acceptable, but may make reading quizzes slightly more challenging.
2. Other readings as assigned (accessible as Adobe (.pdf) files through blackboard).

### **Chapter Quizzes:**

There will be short open-book quizzes associated with each of the assigned chapters in the Coakley text. Each quiz will be worth 40 points. However, at the end of the term I will compute the average of the 12 quizzes that will then be used for your grade calculation. 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.

### Examinations:

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 Writing Assignments:

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 30 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 30 pts.) summary papers	Papers = 60 points.
(3) Chapter Quizzes: (Calculated average of 12 @ 40 pts each)	Quizzes = 40 points.
	<b>Total = 400 points.</b>

Final grades will be assigned according to the scale printed below.

<b>A = 90+ %</b>	<b>B = 80 – 89%</b>
<b>C = 70 – 79%</b>	<b>D = 60 – 69%</b>
<b>F = Less than 60%</b>	

### *COURSE OUTLINE:*

\* Recorded lectures and/or videos to be viewed through Blackboard

Dates	Topics	Reading Assignments/Quizzes
<b>May 15</b> <b>Section 1:</b> <b>First Week</b> <b>of Class</b>	<b>Introduction to the Sociology of Sport</b> Lecture: Overview of the Sociology of Sport (1)	Coakley--Chapter 1 Reading Quiz #1
	<b>Social Theories and Sports</b> Lectures: Sports and Theories (2)	Coakley--Chapter 2 Reading Quiz #2
	<b>Sports through History</b> Lectures: Sports & History (4)	No reading or quiz. This is a lecture-only topic.

Dates	Topics	Reading Assignments/Quizzes
	<b>Sports and Socialization</b> Lectures: Sports and Socialization (3) Video: Frontline: League of Denial	Coakley--Chapter 3 Reading Quiz #3 NFL Concussion Watch Chart
	<b>Sports for Children</b> Lectures: Sports and Children (3)	Coakley--Chapter 4 Reading Quiz #4
<b>May 19 - 21</b>	<b>EXAM 1—MUST be taken and completed between Friday morning (6AM) and Sunday night (11:59PM) of first week.</b>	
<b>May 22 Section 2: Second Week of Class</b>	<b>Deviance in Sports</b> Lectures: Sports & Deviance (3) Link: Domestic Violence Arrests in NFL	Coakley—Chapter 5 Reading Quiz #5
	<b>Violence in Sports</b> Lectures: Sports & Violence (2) Videos: “Biggest Football Hits,” “Best Sports Fights,” and “Fan Violence: ESPN ‘Outside the Lines’”	Coakley—Chapter 6 Reading Quiz #6
<b>Wed May 24</b>	<b>Writing Assignment #1 Due by 11:59pm</b>	
	<b>Gender and Sports</b> Lectures: Sports & Gender (3) Videos: “#MoreThanMean” and “Always #LikeAGirl”	Coakley—Chapter 7 Reading Quiz #7
	<b>Race and Ethnicity in Sports</b> Lectures: Sports and Race/Ethnicity (3) Video: “Proud To Be”	Coakley—Chapter 8 Reading Quiz #8
<b>May 26 - 28</b>	<b>EXAM 2—MUST be completed between Friday (6AM) and Sunday (11:59PM) of second week.</b>	

Dates	Topics	Reading Assignments/Quizzes
May 29 Section 3: Third week of class	<b><u>Sports and Social Class</u></b> Lectures: Sports & Social Class (2)	Coakley—Chapter 9 Reading Quiz #9
	<b><u>Sports and Economics</u></b> Lectures: Sports & Economics (2)	Coakley – Chapter 11 Reading Quiz #10
	<b>Wed May 31    Writing Assignment #2 Due by 11:59pm</b>	
	<b><u>Sports and Education</u></b> Lectures: Sports & Schools (3)	Coakley—Chapter 14 Reading Quiz #11
	<b><u>Sports and Religion</u></b> Lectures: Sports and Religion (2)	Coakley—Chapter 15 Reading Quiz #12
<b>Jun 2 – 4</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM—MUST be completed between Friday (6AM) and Sunday (11:59PM) of final week.</b>	