

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 399(L01)-Sociology of Sport
Course Outline, Fall 2011

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Introduction

During their leisure time, people are free to do as they please. Sports settings are of interest to sociologists because they provide unique glimpses into leisurely human decision-making and social structures. While participation in sport is expected to have positive effects upon people, many scholars have noted that they often have negative, latent side-effects. How do sociological theories explain sporting behaviour? Why is deviance, including violence, common in some sports and not others? What roles are played by gender, ethnicity, and social class? At both the micro-sociological and macro-sociological levels, this course will examine how these activities intersect with society and culture. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to think critically about sports, demonstrate familiarity with key concepts in the sub-discipline, and display a practical ability to apply major theoretical perspectives. *Students are warned that, at times, this class deals with graphic and violent themes in both lectures and videos.*

Required Text

In order to analyze these issues, the following text will be used:

Coakley, J., & Donnelly, P. (2009). *Sports in society: Issues and controversies* (2nd Canadian ed.). Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

This comprehensive collection of readings will address the issues identified above in the introduction. Students will be expected to carefully consider each assigned reading before class and make use of slide show notes available on Blackboard. Please realize that these files *do not* represent an exhaustive set of notes and *are not* an alternative to regularly attending classes and tutorials.

Evaluation

There will be three multiple choice/short answer examinations in this course. They are based upon all readings and lectures *for each section*. That is, they are not cumulative. It is important that students attend all classes and examine every reading in order to meet the demands of this course.

Examination I	30%	October 7 th
Examination II	30%	November 9 th
Final Examination	40%	TBA by Registrar's Office

Grading Scheme

The following grading scheme will be used in this course.

A+ > 95%	B+ 80%-84.99%	C+ 67%-69.99%	D+ 54%-58.99%
A 90%-94.99%	B 75%-79.99%	C 63%-66.99%	D 50%-53.99%
A- 85%-89.99%	B- 70%-74.99%	C- 59%-62.99%	F <49.99%

**The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.*

Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is offered to you as a general guide. It is expected that some topics and readings may deserve further treatment and consequently, additional class time.

Date	Topic	Text Chapter(s)
Sept 12	Introduction	None
Sept 14	Social theory	Chapter 1
Sept 16	Social theory	Chapter 1
Sept 19	Social theory	Chapter 1
Sept 21	Sport, gender, and research method	None
Sept 23	Sport, gender, and research method	None
Sept 26	Sport, gender, and research method	None
Sept 28	Sport and socialization	Chapter 4
Sept 30	Sport and socialization	Chapter 4
Oct 3	Sport and socialization	Chapter 4
Oct 5	Sport and children	Chapter 5
Oct 7	Examination #1	None
Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes	None
Oct 12	Sport and Children	Chapter 5
Oct 14	Sport and Children	Chapter 5
Oct 17	Deviance	Chapter 6
Oct 19	Deviance	Chapter 6
Oct 21	Deviance	Chapter 6
Oct 24	Violence	Chapter 7
Oct 26	Violence	Chapter 7
Oct 28	Violence	Chapter 7
Oct 31	Gender	Chapter 8
Nov 2	Gender	Chapter 8
Nov 4	Gender	Chapter 8
Nov 7	Examination #2	None
Nov 9	'Race' and Ethnicity	Chapter 9

Nov 11	Reading Day – No Classes	None
Nov 14	Race' and Ethnicity	Chapter 9
Nov 16	Race' and Ethnicity	Chapter 9
Nov 18	Social Class	Chapter 10
Nov 21	Social Class	Chapter 10
Nov 23	Social Class	Chapter 10
Nov 25	Commercialization	Chapter 11
Nov 28	Commercialization	Chapter 11
Nov 30	Commercialization	Chapter 11
Dec 2	Media	Chapter 12
Dec 5	Media	Chapter 12
Dec 7	Conclusion	None
Dec 9	Review	None

Other Administrative Information

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the *Social Sciences Food Court* assembly point.

Deferrals

If at all possible you must provide *advance* notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the forms you need online:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre. Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the

end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Ethics Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.