

# **SOCIOLOGY 399 (Sport)**

## **University of Calgary, Fall 2017**

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. Kevin Young ( <a href="http://people.ucalgary.ca/~kyoung/">http://people.ucalgary.ca/~kyoung/</a> )
<b>OFFICE / CONTACT:</b>	SS 932 (220 6509; <a href="mailto:kyoung@ucalgary.ca">kyoung@ucalgary.ca</a> )
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Tuesday 1-2 pm, or by appointment
<b>CLASS TIME:</b>	Tuesday and Thursday 2-3:15 pm
<b>CLASSROOM:</b>	ST 143
<b>PRE-REQUISITE:</b>	Soci. 201 or Consent of Department
<b>COURSE OUTLINE:</b>	Students must print their own copy from the Dept. website

### **COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES**

This course is organized around the theme of 'social problems and social issues in sport'. It begins by defining what is meant by the *sociology of sport* and by examining why sport is *sociologically* significant. It then looks at a number of theoretical approaches to the study of sport. The first two theories discussed -- structural functionalism and conflict theory -- are well-established sociological approaches. Each, in different ways, sees sport as a reflection of social institutions and social practices. The third approach, which can broadly be described as a form of critical theory, is introduced to show how sport can be understood as a phenomenon which is both a reflection of social structures, processes and norms, but also an arena in which values, ideologies, and meanings are constantly negotiated, challenged and changed. Feminist, interactionist, figurational as well as other theories are also implemented at various points of

the course. Substantive topics closely examined include gender/body/sexuality, fitness/health, violence/law/social control, risk/pain/injury, sport/media, and sport/globalization. However, time permitting, reference will also be made to numerous other sports-related issues such as political economy, race and ethnicity, Olympism, and children and sport. A sociological examination of these issues is intended to encourage students to think critically about the role, relevance and impact of sport in society.



### **REQUIRED READING**

The course is organized around two core sources:

**Jay Coakley and Peter Donnelly (2009). Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies. New York: McGraw-Hill (Second Edition).** *Coakley's originally American book has long been one of the most popular introductory texts on the North American market. It appeals to students because, in addition to being sociologically rigorous and covering a wide range of important topics, it is also written in a lively and accessible style. This is a version of the Coakley book adapted for Canadian readers.*

**Kevin Young (2012). Sport, Violence and Society. Abingdon, UK: Routledge.** *This book by the instructor complements Coakley & Donnelly by taking an in-depth look at what we mean by 'sports violence'. Adopting a panoramic and global perspective, the book shows how apparently disparate articulations of 'sports-related violence' are sociologically connected.*



### **EXAMINATIONS & GRADING SYSTEM**

Three in-class exams, dividing the course into three roughly equal parts, have been scheduled. They are based entirely on objective/multiple-choice questions. They are **not** cumulative. The respective dates and values of the exams, and the material to be tested in each, are as follows:

1. EXAM #1 – Thursday October 12, 2017 (30%) -- SECTION I examined.
2. EXAM #2 – Tuesday November 7, 2017 (30%) -- SECTION II examined
3. EXAM #3 – Registrar-scheduled Final: TBA (40%) -- SECTION III examined.

## GRADING SCALE

Please be aware that the following *approximate* grading scale *may* change from test to test:

A- (80-84) A (85-94) A+ (95>)  
 B- (70-73) B (74-76) B+ (77-79)  
 C- (60-63) C (64-66) C+ (67-69)  
 D (50-54) D+ (55-59)  
 F (<49)



Letter grades assigned at the conclusion of the course will be determined by a grading schema and letter scale that will be (i) discussed in class, (ii) posted on D2L, and (iii) applied in precisely the same way to everyone. Grade 'cut-offs' will be honoured in every case, including those where students miss the next letter grade by 0.1%. This is non-negotiable and, in the interests of fairness to everyone, no exceptions will be made.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

This is designed to be a flexible schedule. When and how certain topics are covered in class may change, and we will complete the following *only* if time allows. Students are strongly advised to attend class to keep informed of any changes that may occur. Video material, which may include content not identified below, may be used to complement lectures where relevant and available, and may be examined.

DATE	SUBJECT	READING
Mon. Sept. 11	<b>FALL SESSION CLASSES BEGIN</b>	
Tues. Sept. 12	Introduction to the course: objectives, topics, tests	
Thurs. Sept. 14	<b><u>SECTION I: THINKING ABOUT SPORT SOCIOLOGICALLY</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is <i>Sociology of Sport</i>?</li> <li>• Relationship between sport and history/culture/society</li> <li>• How is sport organized socially?</li> <li>• Social processes through sport</li> <li>• The importance of thinking theoretically</li> <li>• Explaining sport using sociological theory</li> </ul>	<i>C&amp;D: Chaps. 1-3,9-11</i> <i>KY: Preface, Chaps. 1, 6</i>
Tues. Sept. 19	SECTION I (continued)	
Thurs. Sept. 21	SECTION I (continued)	
Tues. Sept. 26	SECTION I (continued)	
Thurs. Sept. 28	SECTION I (continued)	
Tues. Oct. 3	SECTION I (continued)	
Thurs. Oct. 5	SECTION I (continued)	
Tues. Oct. 10	SECTION I (continued)	
Thurs. Oct. 12	<b>EXAM #1 (30%)</b>	



Tues. Oct. 17

**Exam #1 feedback****SECTION II: SPORT, GENDER, SEXUALITY, HEALTH**

- Understanding sex and gender sociologically
- Gender, stratification and power
- Use of myth to exclude social groups
- Sport and gendered body pathologies
- Sport, sexuality, body

*C&D: Chaps. 4, 8, 12*  
*KY: Chaps. 7-8*



Thurs. Oct. 19

SECTION II (continued)

Tues. Oct. 24

SECTION II (continued)

Thurs. Oct. 26

SECTION II (continued)

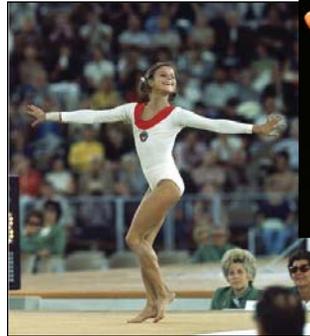
Tues. Oct. 31

SECTION II (continued)

Thurs. Nov. 2

SECTION II (continued)

Tues. Nov. 7

**EXAM #2 (30%)**

Thurs. Nov. 9

**READING DAY: NO CLASS**

Tues. Nov. 14

**Exam #2 feedback****SECTION III: VIOLENCE, LAW, DEVIANCE, SOCIAL CONTROL**

- Defining sports-related violence (SRV)
- Player and crowd violence: Manifestations/theories
- Football hooliganism: Manifestations/theories
- The authorities respond
- Expanding the panorama of SRV
- Hazing/Initiation: Socialization into sport identities
- Risk, pain and injury: The 'sport ethic'

*C&D: Chaps. 6, 7, 13*  
*KY: Chaps. 2-5, Conclusion*



Thurs. Nov. 16

SECTION III (continued)

Tues. Nov. 21

SECTION III (continued)

Thurs. Nov. 23

SECTION III (continued)

Tues. Nov. 28

SECTION III (continued)

Thurs. Nov. 30

SECTION III (continued)

Tues. Dec. 5

SECTION III (continued)



Thurs. Dec. 7

Course review, conclusion, and implications  
 for further study in Sociology (of sport)

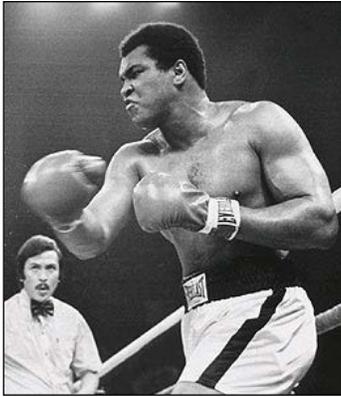
*C&D: Chap. 15*

Fri. Dec 8

**FALL SESSION CLASSES END**

**TBA -- EXAM #3 during registrar-controlled exam period (40%)**

- At the conclusion of this course each student will be asked to complete a Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) form.
- For more information about the Sociology Department (its faculty, funded and other research projects, and undergraduate and graduate program), go to: <http://soci.ucalgary.ca/>



**A Plea for the Environment:** While intended to illustrate course content, this more-colourful-than-normal course outline should not waste resources (i.e., ink, paper). Please do not print in colour; print only once.

Thank you, and welcome to Soci. 399!

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES** (posted by the Instructor)

1. A careful and punctual reading of the required material.
2. Regular attendance at lectures. (The University of Calgary has no policy of mandatory attendance, but attendance is strongly recommended.)
3. Advance notice to the instructor or the Department of Sociology main office (403-220-6502) if unable to comply with the schedule of exams. Students who do not provide this advance notice may not be allowed to retake exams. Also see note on ‘Academic Accommodation’ and ‘Deferrals’ below.
4. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with changes (e.g., additions and deletions) to this outline made in class.
5. Keep this outline. It will be your course reference throughout the term. Most of the questions students ask are answered on it. No hard copies will be provided.

**Grade Reappraisal:** Within two weeks of the date of an assignment, students seeking reappraisal must submit a written request to the instructor explaining the basis for reappraisal. The instructor will consider the circumstances, check the scoring, and communicate his decision to the student. In all cases a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

**Passing Grades:** It is **not** required that students record a passing grade on any one assignment in order to pass the course overall.

**Use of Technology:** Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices are **only** permitted during lectures for class-related purposes. Where cell phones in particular are concerned, please be respectful and remember to mute your cell phone and refrain from using it during class.

**Email Etiquette:** Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Indicate your course number in your email’s subject line, and include a respectful salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered as quickly as possible. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be responded to. Questions regarding course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues are best dealt with during office hours.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES** (posted by the University)

**Emergency Evacuations:** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the closest assembly point. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**Deferrals:** If possible, you must provide *advance* notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or submit 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 Department of Sociology.

*Deferred Final Exam Application:*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

*Deferred Term Work Form:*

[https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

***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. Please see:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

***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:*** The student accommodation policy can be found at:  
[ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

***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.

***Failing a Test but Passing the Course:*** In order to pass the course overall a student does **not** have to record a passing grade on all of the assignments.

***Student Representation:*** The 2017-18 Students' Union VP Academic is Tina Miller ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)). For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/> You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>