

The University of Calgary  
Department of Sociology

**Sociology 601.01**  
**SEMINAR IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT**

**Fall 2012**

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Kevin Young
OFFICE / PHONE:	SS 932 (403-220-6509)
E-MAIL:	kyoung@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Monday 2 - 4 p.m., or by appointment
CLASS TIME:	Monday 4 p.m. (170 minutes). <i>Due to the fact that our class is scheduled on Mondays, and because there are two Mondays in Fall 2012 we miss due to Thanksgiving and 'Reading Days', we will need to arrange other meetings to comply with university policy regarding course contact-time.</i>
CLASSROOM:	SS 921

**COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES**

Whether one takes an historical, long-term view, or a more present-centred, 'here-and-now' approach, sport has always 'mattered'. The sociological study of sport may still be viewed with some justification as a subfield in its infancy, but it is clear that the sweep of theoretical approaches brought to bear on sport-related behaviours, processes, and structures is no less impressive than in other subdisciplinary fields often perceived as more mature and sophisticated. Some theories have been more pronounced than others at different stages in the development of the subfield, some have had more of a lasting impact, and other perspectives, despite great promise, have been curiously under-utilized. This graduate seminar encourages students to think sociologically about sport. Based around fundamental questions such as "Why do we need sociological theory?", and "How do we think with theory?", its principle goal is to explore the range of sociological tools available for understanding one of contemporary society's most important and compelling social institutions -- sport.

As well as focusing on how to better understand sport theoretically/sociologically, an additional, and no less important, underlying objective of the seminar is to encourage students to take their own professional socialization seriously. Students will have an opportunity to develop and improve their skills regarding four dimensions of academic life: (i) professional and academic writing; (ii) delivering presentations to an audience of peers; (iii) critical self-assessment and appraisal; (iv) cv's, conference presentations, and academic publications.

## **READING \***

There is no *required* reading for this course. However, recommended reading lists for sources available in the University library will be made available and customized to student interests and needs as the latter become clear.

- *This is one of the first times the Department of Sociology has offered a graduate seminar in this substantive area and, as such, the seminar is somewhat experimental both in content and in format. This is especially the case given the small class enrolment. Several sport theory volumes will represent the starting point where reading is concerned and, as the 'shape' of the seminar becomes clearer and, importantly at this level, student needs/interests unfold, additional readings will be provided for students on a regular (weekly) basis by the instructor.*

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES** (posted by the instructor)

1. A careful and punctual reading of the required material.
2. Attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions and questions.
3. Advance notice to the instructor or the Department of Sociology main office (403-220-6502) if unable to comply with the schedule of assignments and participation.
4. Students who are having difficulty with the course are advised to contact the instructor immediately to discuss the situation.
5. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with changes (additions, deletions, shifts) to this outline made in class.
6. 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.*

## **SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT**

Students will be assessed in the following five ways:

1. 4 student presentations, each of approximately 20-30 minutes (10% each, total 40%).  
(Presentations should *critically* describe, explain and assess the theorist/theoretical approach/topic under consideration in detail -- its scope and purpose, and its main exemplars, concepts, and methods. Wherever possible, students should indicate how the approach helps us understand aspects of sport in society using concrete examples. Presentations should also include a 1-2 page summary sheet to be handed in *before* the presentation commences).
2. 2 in-class written responses to video material (5% each, total 10%).

(During two classes, unannounced video content will be shown and, following a class break where thoughts may be gathered, students will each have up to 20 minutes to make a case for understanding the content of the video using an agreed perspective. This perspective is *not* restricted to the approaches they have previously presented on in class).

3. Following two separate classes by Guest Speakers, students will have one week to write up a 'Theoretical Reflections' response, to be handed in at the start of the next class. They may use one or more sociological approaches to make sense of and critically appraise the Guest Speaker's presentation. 'Reflections' should be no more than 3 double-spaced pages in length and contain conventionally formatted references to material used/cited. Each 'Reflection' is worth 5%.

*NB. Exercises 2 and 3 have been staggered (that is, they occur on alternate weeks) to provide a break for students, at least in format.*

4. Term paper (30%). To be submitted in class on Monday December 3.
5. Class participation (10%).

More detailed information/guidelines on each of these forms of assessment will be provided in class. *Also, because of the small class enrolment, the Instructor is willing to discuss and, if preferred, adjust the system of assessment to best suit student needs.*

NB: Public speaking is often intimidating; few people enjoy it. This difficulty is acknowledged and built in to the allocation of the grade. However, this seminar places emphasis on the creation, by the professor and students alike, of an interactive and respectful classroom climate conducive to listening, learning, and critiquing. Students are required to attend and contribute to class discussion and debates. Registration will be kept, and student involvement noted.

## **GRADING SCALE**

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

**SEMINAR FORMAT**

<b>DATE/Meeting</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>READING</b>
Mon. Sept. 10	<b>FALL SESSION CLASSES BEGIN</b> <b>Introduction to the course:</b> <b>Objectives, topics, student roles</b> <b>*Professional socialization discussion*</b>	TBA
Class 2	Sociology of Sport as a subdiscipline	TBA
Class 3	Karl Marx and Conflict Perspectives Emile Durkheim and Structural Functionalism	TBA TBA
Class 4	Max Weber George Herbert Mead and Symbolic Interactionism	TBA TBA
Class 5	Feminism Cultural Studies	TBA TBA
Class 6	Postmodernism Figurational Sociology	TBA TBA
Class 7	Pierre Bourdieu Michel Foucault	TBA TBA
Class 8	Social Network Analysis Synthetic Approach	TBA TBA
Class 9	Guest Speaker: One-week 'Theoretical Reflections' assignment	TBA
Class 10	VIDEO: In-class 'Theory Application' student responses	
Class 11	Guest Speaker: One-week 'Theoretical Reflections' assignment	TBA
Class 12	VIDEO: In-class 'Theory Application' student responses	
Class 13	<b>Course review, conclusion, and implications for further study</b> Term paper (30%) due in	
Fri. Dec. 7	<b>FALL SESSION CLASSES END</b>	

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

**Emergency Evacuations:** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by [check link to find assembly point for your building:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75>]

**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.

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](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.

**Failing a test and failing the course:** In order to pass the course a student does **not** have to record a passing grade on all of the assignments.

**Student Union Ombudsman Office:** <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

