

SOCIOLOGY 458: Analysis in Sports and Society

Fall 2015

Professor Lisa Uperesa

OH: T 1:00-3:00pm (212 Saunders) and by appt.

E-mail: lisa.uperesa@hawaii.edu

M/W 1:30-2:45

Sakamaki B101

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What do we think we know about sport? Is it play? Leisure? Mere pastime? This course draws on critical perspectives to examine sport as an important social institution. As a microcosm of society, sport is a site in which sociological processes can be studied. As a class we will examine cultural, social, political, and economic dimensions of sport using ethnographies, films, sports studies, critical theory, and contemporary media. We will focus in particular on the problem of power and how sociological concepts such as stratification and inequality, identities and discrimination, globalization and colonialism, mobility, and violence play out in the realm of sport.

This course has a Contemporary Ethical Issues (E) Focus and the Oral Communication (O) Focus designations. Contemporary ethical issues are fully integrated into the main course material and will constitute at least 30% of the content. At least 8 hours of class time will be spent discussing ethical issues. Through the use of lectures, discussions and assignments, students will develop basic competency in recognizing and analyzing ethical issues; responsibly deliberating on ethical issues; and making ethically determined judgments. We will be using the ethical frameworks available on the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics website (<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/>) in our course. Oral communication assignments and training are fully integrated into the main course activities and will constitute at least 40% of the final grade. Students will receive explicit training in oral communication, and will receive feedback on oral communication activities and assignments on an individual basis.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of social relations, power dynamics, and inequality in sport and society, incorporating theoretical and contextual approaches.
2. Analyze connections between sport (as a social institution and practice) and other important aspects of social life including economics, politics, gender relations, and culture.
3. Demonstrate critical analysis skills through the study of the sociology of sport.
4. Demonstrate ethical deliberation skills and use ethical evaluation frameworks effectively.
5. Demonstrate clear and effective verbal and written communication skills.

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

This course will be taught as an upper division recitation (lecture/discussion). This means that roughly half of the course will be lecture and half will consist of discussion of course topics and assigned reading materials and various in-class exercises.

Students are expected to attend class **having read** the assigned material, and to participate in class discussions. As with all academic classes, you are expected to complete approximately 3 hours of outside study time/homework for every hour of in-class time. This means that you should expect to devote at least 6 hours per week to preparing for this class as a baseline. Some weeks it will be less, but if it gets to be more please let me know and we can discuss.

Although it is difficult, you must be able to unplug yourself from your phone, texting, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, and internet surfing for the duration of our class time. Turn off all electronic devices while we are in class together (I know, 75 minutes is a loooooong time but you can do it!). Respect yourself, your fellow classmates, and your professor by being present.

Required Course Texts

The following book is required for this class:

Eitzen, D. Stanley. *Sport in Contemporary Society: An Anthology*. 9th ed. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers, 2012.

A copy of the book will be on 2-hour reserve at Sinclair Library if you need to make copies.

Additional articles will be available in a course reader. Unless otherwise noted, the assigned readings are required for the day they are listed. **BRING YOUR READINGS TO CLASS.**

Assignments and Grading

This upper division course is considered a collaborative learning experience between students and instructor. Students have diverse backgrounds, experiences, training, and education that they bring to the classroom, thereby enhancing the classroom exchange and learning experience. In preparing this course syllabus, the instructor's responsibility is to provide a range of learning opportunities that will enhance understanding and mastery of the student learning objectives outlined for this course. It is each student's responsibility to take full advantage of learning opportunities, to keep up to date on readings and assignments via the Lualaba syllabus, to communicate with the instructor if s/he is having difficulty, and to give feedback on course components and design. Listed below is a description of the assignments for this course. Grades will be posted on the course Lualaba website so that students can track their progress in the class.

All assignments are designed with specific learning goals in mind, and if they are unclear please ask. They are due on the date indicated, in class, at the beginning of class time; **late submissions will not receive credit**. Late assignments are NOT ACCEPTED except in extenuating circumstances and/or by prior approval. If you are experiencing exceptional circumstances which are making it difficult for you to submit assignments on time, contact the instructor **in advance** of the due date. I am happy to work with you if you are facing difficulty, but I cannot help unless I know there is an issue.

Attendance and Participation	15%
Current Event Presentation	5%
Film Review and Presentation	15%
Panel Discussion and Debate	15%
Quizzes and Short Papers	20%
Research Paper and Presentation	20%
Final Exam	10%

Attendance and Participation 15%

Students who do the reading, approach the assignments responsibly, and participate in class will do well in this course. As this is a course that meets the Oral Communication focus requirement, classroom participation and active discussion are essential to student learning in this course – let’s have fun with our discussions! Students will be graded on participation every week, so to do well you need to be up to speed and open to joining in. Attending but sitting passively in class will not earn full credit; strong and consistent participation will. This course also meets the Ethics focus requirement, so debating ethical issues will be a regular part of class discussion. At the end of the semester if a student is on the border between grades, high quality and consistent participation can earn them the higher grade.

Current Events Presentation 5%

Over the course of the semester, each student will select and briefly present one current event, news story, media piece, and/or film to the class (related to the topic for the week or a topic we have already covered). The short 3-5 minute presentations should include a summary of the event or story and commentary on its usefulness for this class, highlighting ethical issues where appropriate. All current events presentations must be completed in the first five weeks of the semester.

Film Review 15%

Students will be provided with a list of sports-themed films from which they will select one to view and review. They will discuss and analyze the film in groups of four or fewer. As a group, they will then present their short reviews to the class. Reviews will be graded on quality of analysis, identification of ethical issues, use of frameworks and course readings, and presentation.

Panel Discussions and Debates 15%

Over the course of the semester each student will participate in at least one panel discussion or debate. These discussions and debates will be focused on identified ethical issues. Grading on this assignment will be based on students’ demonstration of oral skills, their use of ethical frameworks, and the quality of their preparatory notes (to be submitted after the event).

Quizzes, Essays, and Mini-Assignments 20%

Students will complete a small number of quizzes, short essays, and other mini-assignments during the course of the semester; these will be announced.

Research Project Paper and Presentation 20%

Students will pursue a topic and question of their choice in a research project over the course of the semester. The assignment guidelines will be posted on the course Laulima site and will be discussed in depth in class.

Final Exam 10%

There will be a take home essay exam given at the end of the semester focused on applying ethical frameworks to contemporary issues in sport and society. Exams will be graded on their critical application of frameworks and use of course material, as well as written argumentation.

Final Guidelines Regarding Course Assignments:

This course assumes that we are all adult learners in a collaborative learning environment. We ask each other to respect and be accountable to the objectives, activities, and assignments established for this course, and by doing so we also ask each other to respect the 'spirit' of being collaborative learners in this venture. The entire class, by consensus, may negotiate aspects of each assignment until 1 week before its due date. We may mutually decide to change guidelines or deadlines for the assignments, but the final determination is made by the instructor.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to know and follow the University of Hawai'i Systemwide Student Conduct Code, particularly sections on proscribed conduct (http://studentaffairs.manoa.Hawai'i.edu/policies/conduct_code/system_scc.php). Plagiarism is a serious violation of the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code. In it, plagiarism is defined as follows: "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms" (University of Hawai'i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992: 6). **Anyone who plagiarizes another's work will fail the course.**

Absences

Since this is a course with an oral communication focus, you have to be present to participate in oral exercises and assignments. There are no excused absences; either you are in class or you are not. If, however, you have a planned absence that has been cleared with the instructor, you may ask how to make up some of the points you miss. It is your responsibility to work out an accommodation with the instructor for 1) prior approval and 2) to make up work within a reasonable amount of time. Note: Student-athletes who are in season and must travel have the responsibility for clearing the absence and make-up assignment. [All students get one class day pass, no questions asked.]

Accommodations and Academic Support

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you and with the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

COURSE TOPICS

- Week 1 Introduction; Why study sport?
- Week 2 Youth Sports: Sport and Socialization
- Week 3 Theories of Sports and Society
- Week 4 Assessment; Gender, Socialization, Sport
- Week 5 Gender, Socialization, Sport: Masculinities, Femininities & Inequality
- Week 6 The Legacy and Futures of Title IX; Sexualities & Inequality
- Week 7 Media, Capital, Gender
- Week 8 Film Review Presentations; Sports and Social Class
- Week 9 Sports and Higher Education: Ethical Dilemmas
- Week 10 Sport, Excess, and Deviance; Sporting Indigeneity
- Week 11 Upward Mobility, Cultural Commodities, Diaspora
- Week 12 Upward Mobility, Cultural Commodities, Diaspora II
- Week 13 Upward Mobility, Cultural Commodities, Diaspora III
- Week 14 Race and the Color Line(s) in Sport and Society
- Week 15 Research Presentations
- Week 16 Research Presentations; Pau Hana!