

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sociology of Sport

Winter 2020: SOC 2208

2:30-3:45pm, Old Main 145, Wayne State University

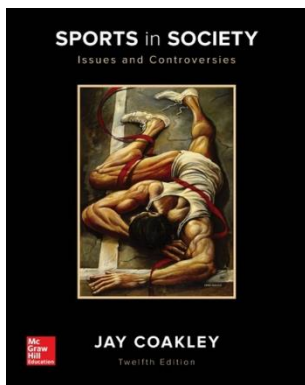
Instructor:	Prof. Jukka Savolainen, PhD
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Teaching assistant:	Kyle Dunn, 2228 FAB, kyle.dunn@wayne.edu ,
TA Office hours:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:45-4:45 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The realm of sports offers unique opportunities to explore fundamental aspects of social behavior. Sports itself is a social phenomenon that can be studied from the perspective of demography, criminology, stratification, and other areas of sociological analysis. Sports is also a product of a society in which it takes place, and therefore offers an interesting reflection of such issues as social change, cultural differences, and politics. Accordingly, the purpose of this course is two-fold. First, we use the context of sports to introduce students to basic sociological topics and concepts. Second, we apply sociological theories and methods to make sense of various aspects of sports.

READINGS:

Jay Coakley (2017), *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*, 12th Edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Department of Sociology adheres to the Wayne State University policy on academic dishonesty. Students are expected to display academic integrity in all of their work for this course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Any student suspected of dishonesty in their work will receive a zero for the assignment in question and referred to the department chair for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions about academic honesty, please contact me. WSU writing center (see below) is a useful resource for students who are unclear about the difference between citing others' text and plagiarism. It is your responsibility as a college student to know.

UNIVERSITY CLASS PARTICIPATION POLICY

Wayne State University enforces a class participation policy. Instructors are required to verify participation for all classes, by the end of the second week of the semester. The purpose of this policy is to support student success, to ensure eligibility of students for financial aid, and to maintain accurate enrollment data. Your participation in the class during the first two weeks will serve as proof of your participation. **If you fail to attend and participate in class, the Registrar will administratively withdraw you from class, counting you as never having attended, which may result in losing financial aid.** As long as you are participating from the beginning of class, your participation will be verified.

GENERAL RESOURCES FOR WAYNE STATE STUDENTS

Dropping or withdrawing: <https://reg.wayne.edu/students/information#dropping>

Disability accommodations: www.studentdisability.wayne.edu

Counseling:

WSU Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.wayne.edu; 313-577-3398)

STUDENT SERVICES

- **The Academic Success Center** (1600 Undergraduate Library): www.success.wayne.edu

- **The Writing Research and Technology Zone** is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library and provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge: <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing>
- **Library research assistance:** https://library.wayne.edu/forms/consultation_request.php.

DIVERSITY / CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to learn, we must be open to views that are different from ours. Please be respectful of your fellow classmates and appreciate the opportunity be challenged. Tolerance for viewpoint diversity is a key value of higher education. Note that this is a two-way street: we should tolerate and respect conservative, moderate, and liberal perspectives equally. We will not tolerate hate speech, but you should also avoid assuming the worst of people you disagree with. As an instructor, I invite you to challenge any aspect of the content I present in class, as long as you are able to provide a reasonable argument. My goal is to stimulate your thinking and enrich your worldview, not to convince you of the validity of any particular doctrine.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Exams (25% + 25% = 50%)

There are two exams in this course: a midterm and a final exam. The final exam is not cumulative. Both exams are a mix of structured (e.g., multiple choice) and unstructured (e.g., essay) questions. I will offer a comprehensive review before each exam.

2. Class presentations (30%)

Students are required to produce two in-class presentations during the semester: a group presentation (15-20 minutes) and an individual presentation (5-10 minutes). Both presentations must be prepared as Power Point slides and should include relevant video clips or other audiovisual content the duration of which may not exceed 5 minutes. Such clips do not count towards the total presentation time as specified above.

2.1 Group presentation

Students will be assigned to groups of 2-3 people to create an in-class presentation related to the course material. The topics will be assigned by the instructor in the beginning of the semester. The timing of the presentations varies by topic (see the schedule below).

2.2 Individual presentation

In addition to the group presentation, each student is expected to prepare a very brief “spot” highlighting an interesting sport story. I am mostly looking for profiles of athletes, sports broadcasters, coaches, or any individuals who have made contributions to the world of sports. This is your opportunity to have fun with the subject matter. You have freedom to propose a subject, but you must have that idea approved by the instructor ahead of time. Alternatively, you will be provided with a list of topics to choose from.

3. Research project (10%)

In groups of 4 students, you will gather and code data as instructed by the professor. This is a semester-long project during which students learn about empirical data collection and analysis. We will use class time to cover the requirements of this project, but most of the work occurs outside the class hours.

4. Discussions/participation (10%)

Active participation in class discussion and activities is expected. Merely attending the class will not be sufficient to satisfy this requirement.

Grading scale

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
%	93+	90-92	88-89	83-87	80-82	78-79	73-77	70-72	68-69	63-67	60-62	<60

SCHEDULE:

(Subject to changes)

Week	Date	Day	Topical area	Reading	Presentations
1	1/7/2020	Tuesday	Introductions		
1	1/9/2020	Thursday	What is sociology or sport?	Chapters 1-2	
2	1/14/2020	Tuesday	Sports and socialization	Chapter 3	
2	1/16/2020	Thursday	Children & youth	Chapter 4	Scheduling
3	1/21/2020	Tuesday	Sports, Sex & Gender	Chapter 7	
3	1/23/2020	Thursday	Research project prep time		
4	1/28/2020	Tuesday	Sports, Sex & Gender	Chapter 7	<i>Spots 1-2</i>
4	1/30/2020	Thursday	Sports, Sex & Gender	Chapter 7	Group 1
5	2/4/2020	Tuesday	Deviance in sports	Chapter 5	<i>Spots 3-4</i>
5	2/6/2020	Thursday	Violence in Sports	Chapter 6	<i>Spots 5-6</i>
6	2/11/2020	Tuesday	Violence in Sports	Chapter 6	Group 2
6	2/13/2020	Thursday	Midterm review		
7	2/18/2020	Tuesday	Midterm exam		
7	2/20/2020	Thursday	Race & ethnicity in sports	Chapter 8	<i>Spots 7-8</i>
8	2/25/2020	Tuesday	Race & ethnicity in sports	Chapter 8	Group 3
8	2/27/2020	Thursday	Race & ethnicity in sports	Chapter 8	Group 4
9	3/3/2020	Tuesday	Social class in sports	Chapter 9	<i>Spots 9-10</i>
9	3/5/2020	Thursday	Social class in sports	Chapter 9	Group 5
10	3/10/2020	Tuesday	Spring break		
10	3/12/2020	Thursday	Spring break		
11	3/17/2020	Tuesday	Age & ability	Chapter 10	<i>Spots 11-12</i>
11	3/19/2020	Thursday	Sports and the economy	Chapter 11	<i>Spots 13-14</i>
12	3/24/2020	Tuesday	Sports and the economy	Chapter 11	Group 6
12	3/26/2020	Thursday	FIELD DAY!	Chapter 11	
13	3/31/2020	Tuesday	Sports and the media	Chapter 12	<i>Spots 15-16</i>
13	4/2/2020	Thursday	Sports and politics	Chapter 13	Group 7
14	4/7/2020	Tuesday	Sports and politics	Chapter 13	
14	4/9/2020	Thursday	Sports in education	Chapter 14	Group 8
15	4/14/2020	Tuesday	Sports and/as religion	Chapter 15	
15	4/16/2020	Thursday	Review for the final exam		
16	4/21/2020	Tuesday	<i>Finals week: No class</i>		
16	4/23/2020	Thursday	Final exam 2:45-4:45pm		