SYLLABUS: SPORTS AND SOCIETY – Fall, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION:

John Taylor, Professor, Bellamy Room 618
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:00 or by appointment
Office Phone: 850 644-1762 Fax Number: 850 644-6208
Email Address: jrtaylor@fsu.edu

Teaching Assistants*

Alberto Alvarez
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-4pm
Email Address: aa18r@my.fsu.edu

Pierce Dignam
Office Hours: Mondays, 3-5pm
Email Address: pad15b@my.fsu.edu

Pablo Gonzalez
Office Hours: TBA
Email Address: epg20n@my.fsu.edu

* Remember, Alberto Alvarez will mentor students whose last names begin with the letters A through H, Pierce Dignam will mentor students whose last names begin with I through P, and Pablo Gonzalez will mentor students whose last names begin with Q through Z. Please contact your mentor first if you have any problems or questions regarding this class.

Test Dates:

Exam # 1 – Sep 17-20
Exam # 2 – Oct 15-18
Exam # 3 – Nov 12-15
Exam # 4 – Dec 7-9

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Texts:


Required Video:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Of all the social institutions that social scientists study—family, religion, medial, government, medicine, race—sport is arguably the least studied in proportion to its societal impact. Sport plays a pervasive role in almost all of our lives as fans, players, and consumers. Despite this omnipresence, sports remain an understudied topic.

This course will attempt to analyze the ubiquity and impact of sports. We will explore the topic of sport from a critical perspective focusing especially on inequalities in gender, race, class, and power. This class will jointly examine sports as a social mirror that reflects status inequalities as well as the role of sports in perpetuating social inequalities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

* Apply a sociological perspective to current events in the sporting world.

* Critically analyze the assigned literature.

* Identify how sport shapes and is shaped by dominant ideologies and cultural values.

* Demonstrate an understanding of various forms of social inequality and their connection to sports.

GRADING/EVALUATION*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>4 examinations (100 points each)</td>
<td>400</td>
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The grading scale is as follows:
400-360 = A; 359-358 = A–; 357-320 = B; 319-318 = B–; 317-280 = C; 279-278 = C–; 277-240 = D; 239-238 = D–; 237 or less = F.

No extra credit assignments will be issued.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. All students are expected to be present for scheduled classes and assignments. However, if a serious medical or family emergency arises, causing a student to miss class, please notify me prior to the class. If I cannot be reached, leave a message with the Departmental Secretary (644-6416) or e-mail me explaining the circumstances for your absence. No make-ups will be permitted for class quizzes. Students who miss four or more classes will receive an F on for their final grade.

**University Attendance Policy:**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Missed Work/Excused Make-ups**

Students will be given two weeks to make-up exams missed because of an excused absence. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in the student receiving a grade of zero for that exam. There will be no makeup opportunities for the final exam.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

All weekly assignments are posted in the “assignment” section of your blackboard course website.

**ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:**

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student’s own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the
university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code.
http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html
http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/

**COURTESY IN THE CLASSROOM**

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. Therefore all students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner that is respectful of others. Repeated disruption of class will lead to penalties that reduce your final grade.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions need to be scholarly. Scholarly comments are:

- Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement.
- Related to the class and course material. Scholarly comments advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs.
- Finally, comments are to be delivered in normal tones and in a non-aggressive manner.

**Food and beverages are not allowed in the classroom.** If you bring them into class you will be asked to leave. This policy will be strictly enforced.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/
SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.