Syllabus – Fall 2022

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Contemporary Social Issues in Sport
Location/Meeting Times:
Professor:

Email:
Telephone:
Other:
Office Hours/Availability:

Course Materials

Required Materials:

Woods, R. (2021). Issues in Sport (4th ed.). Human Kinetics.

Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources.

Course Description

This course examines issues, challenges, opportunities and constraints within the domain of sport. The course will explore socio-cultural, economic, political and other related issues in sport. Students will locate sport as a social institution, and as such, examine the impact of sport in American culture and how American culture impacts sport. The course will cover sport at the youth, intercollegiate, professional and international level, considering how sport at these levels is differently experienced by individuals, communities, organizations, and broadly by society. Students will also engage in discussion of issues in sport relative to gender, race(ethnicity), differing physical and intellectual ability, sexual identity, and gender identity.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Analyze and discuss current issues impacting sport in American culture and how American culture impacts sport.

2. Critically evaluate these issues and analyze the impact of these issues on the individual participant and/or spectator, impact at the local, state and national level, and also the impact on the social institution of sport.

3. Articulate the impact of sport on society and the impact of society on the institution of sport.

4. Formulate actionable steps to help address a current issues in sport to be implemented at either the individual, local, state, or national level.

Course Outline

Module/week	Topics / Assignments	Reading(s)
1	**Studying Sport in Society**	
Week 1	Introduction to Course Sport and How we study it.	Text Chapter 1
Week 2	Impact of Sport Participants & Sport Spectators	Text Chapter 2
Week 3	Impact of Sport Business, Management & the Media	Text Chapter 3
2	**Sport as an Institution**	
Week 4	Youth Sport & Development Through Sport	Text Chapter 4
Week 5	Coaching & Sport Leadership	Text Chapter 5
Week 6	Interscholastic & Intercollegiate Sport	Text Chapter 6
Week 7	International Sport & the Modern Olympic Games	Text Chapter 7
3	**Sport, Society, & Culture**	
Week 8	Sporting Behavior / Ethics & Moral Behavior	Text Chapter 8
Week 9	Race, Ethnicity, & Sport	Text Chapter 9
Week 10	Gender & Sport	Text Chapter 10
	Position Paper #1 due	

Week 11	Social Class and Sport	Text Chapter 11
Week 12	Special Populations & Sport	Text Chapter 12
Week 13	Religion and Sport	Text Chapter 13
Week 14	Government, Politics, & Sport	Text Chapter 14
Week 15	Deviance and Sport	Text Chapter 15

Position Paper # 2 due

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3" align="center">Course Requirements and Grading</td></tr>
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Course Requirements

1. Be present 'in class' – this online class will require you to be present and engaged in the discussion of the many topics that we will discuss this semester. Being present in class means reading all materials, watching all videos, and participating in all discussions. You will follow the online discussion requirements as outlined below.

    Discussion Boards:

    You are expected to read all chapter materials during Monday and Tuesday – and respond to the first set of discussion questions by Wednesday morning (9am EST). Please see the Discussion Rubric for detailed information on expectations for the discussion boards.

2. Complete all reading assignments and chapter quizzes prior to the due dates posted in HuskyCT.

3. Complete Issues in Sport position papers. Each student is required to write two position papers throughout the semester. Position papers are due on the day designated for the assigned topic. (See further details in section below).

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Weight
Chapter quizzes	25%
Online discussion forums/activities	35%
Issues in Sport position papers	40%

Issues in Sport – Position Papers

You will research and analyze an issue in sport, using course content to assist in your analysis. You are to take a position on the issue you have identified, and referencing appropriate course materials, readings, and

additional sources, justify your position, while acknowledging alternative points of view. After you have identified your position on this issue, you must provide a detailed planned of action to help address this issue – this action plan could be increasing awareness of the issue, advocating for new legislation, suggestions for new policies or changes to existing policies, etc. There is not one 'correct' way to address each issue; you are encouraged to develop a thoughtful, well supported, and realistic plan of action that you believe will help to address the issue you have identified.

This website http://www.studygs.net/wrtstr9.htm provides helpful information for writing position papers.

Writing a Position Paper

A position paper presents an arguable opinion about an issue. The goal of a position paper is to convince the reader that your opinion is valid and worth listening to. Ideas that you are considering need to be carefully examined in developing your argument and organizing your paper. You must be sure you are addressing all sides of the issue and presenting it in a manner that is easy for the reader to understand. Your task is to take one side of the argument and persuade the reader that you have an in-depth understanding of the topic being presented. It is important to support your argument with evidence to ensure the validity of your claims, as well as to address the counterclaims to show that you are well informed about both sides.

Analyzing an Issue and Developing an Argument

Once your topic is selected, you should do some research on the subject matter. While you may already have an opinion on your topic and an idea about which side of the argument you want to take, you need to ensure that your position is well supported. Listing out the pro and con sides of the topic will help you examine your ability to support your claims and counterclaims, along with a list of supporting evidence for both sides. Supporting evidence includes the following:

- Factual Knowledge - Information that is verifiable and agreed upon by almost everyone.
- Statistical Inferences - Interpretation and examples of an accumulation of facts.
- Informed Opinion - Opinion developed through research and/or expertise of the claim.
- Personal Testimony - Personal experience related by a knowledgeable party.

Once you have made your pro and con lists, compare the information side by side. Considering your audience, as well as your own viewpoint, choose the position you will take.

In considering the audience, ask yourself the following questions:

- Who is your audience?
- What do they believe?
- Where do they stand on the issue?
- How are their interests involved?
- What evidence is likely to be effective with them?

You must justify that the position you take is ethical, state the reasons why, and show how you arrived at this point of view.

Organization of the Position Paper

- Thorough, well supported discussion of the issue.
- Discussion of your position relative to the issue.

- Realistic and meaningful plan of action to address the issue.

Position Paper Guidelines

- 12 point font, Times New Roman - spell check and proofread all work
- 1" margins top/bottom/left/right
- Double spaced
- Each paper should contain at least 3 sources of information outside of class (news articles, journal or magazine articles, website information). Reference lists must be included at the end of all papers using APA format. (see: https://guides.lib.uconn.edu/c.php?g=607064&p=4208309)
- Name and date ONLY – top left (single spaced)
- 4 page minimum – 6 page maximum (no exceptions), not including the reference list.
- Papers must be submitted electronically through HuskyCT.

Grading Scale

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
94-100	A	4.0
90-93	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Late Policy

Permission must be obtained from instructor at least 24 hours in advance turn any written assignment in late. Students will be required to show documentation regarding the reason for late assignments/missed exams in order for permission to be granted. In emergency circumstances, students will notify the instructor, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Without such permission, the grade will be lowered by 10% for each day late. Late assignments will not be accepted without instructor consent.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades within 3-4 days of the due dates. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

Student Code

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the [University of Connecticut's Student Code](#) Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:
- [Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research](#)

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:
- [Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It](#)

Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. More information is available at http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884.

Sexual Assault Reporting Policy To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the [Office of Diversity & Equity](#) under the [Sexual Assault Response Policy](#). The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. More information is available at http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/.

Copyright

Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Academic Calendar

The University's [Academic Calendar](#) contains important semester dates.

Academic Support Resources

UCONN Writing Center
http://writingcenter.uconn.edu/

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020, or http://csd.uconn.edu/.

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Students with Disabilities

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at UConn provides accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities.   If you have a documented disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the CSD, please do so as soon as possible. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860) 486-2020 or at csd@uconn.edu. Detailed information regarding the accommodations process is also available on their website at http://www.csd.uconn.edu.

Software Requirements and Technical Help

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

<div style="background-color:gray; text-align:center; color:white;">Evaluation of the Course</div>

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.