

# SOC 245: Sociology of Sport || Samuel C. Mindes, MA

Fall 2018 || Washington State University || [samuel.mindes@wsu.edu](mailto:samuel.mindes@wsu.edu)

## COURSE INFORMATION

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### Class Meetings

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:35am to 11:50am in Todd Hall 216

### Office Hours

Thursdays 8:30am to 10:00am in the CUB Lair by the videogames (or by appointment)

You are welcome to drop in for my office hours. If you would like me to prepare anything for our meeting (e.g., updated grades, assignments to return, exams to discuss), please let me know ahead of time.

### Communication

The primary mode of communication outside of class is email. I expect you to check your email regularly (as well as the **Blackboard** course page). I check my email regularly between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. If you email me during those times, I will usually respond within 24 hours.

### Teaching Assistant

Caleb Cooley

Office: Wilson-Short 206

Email: [caleb.cooley@wsu.edu](mailto:caleb.cooley@wsu.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 8:00am to 10:00am

## REQUIRED TEXTS (available at The Bookie)

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George H. Sage, D. Stanley Eitzen, & Becky Beal. 2018. *Sociology of North American Sport*. Oxford University Press. Eleventh Edition. ISBN: 978-019085410-2

NOTE: Available in The Bookie or as an eBook at [www.vitalsource.com](http://www.vitalsource.com) or [www.redshelf.com](http://www.redshelf.com).

I recommend getting the eleventh edition, as some of the content and organization has changed from previous editions. If you choose to get an earlier edition, it is your responsibility to account for the updated content being used in the course.

\*Additional course readings and materials that may be required will be distributed via **Blackboard**.

### Recommended Material

Sociology Reference Guide (QuickStudy Academic) by BarCharts, Inc. ISBN: 978-142322435-8

NOTE: I strongly recommend you get this reference guide to use throughout the semester to remind yourself about our key sociological concepts, terms, theorists, and much more.

Copies may be available in the Bookie, but are also available online. Find it on Amazon.com at <http://a.co/0lq9JvH> or at BarChart, Inc.'s website at <http://www.barcharts.com/9781423224358/>.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

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### From the Course Catalog

Sociological study of sport in America.

### From your Instructor

The sociology of sport is the sub-discipline of sociology that focuses on sports from a sociological perspective. In this course, we will explore how sports are intertwined with social, cultural, political, and economic forces. We will explore these forces at many levels, from the individual to the global. This course deals with the many ways that individuals interact with sports organizations and activities: as participants for

recreation and leisure; as participants for self-expression and personal fulfillment; as spectators and bystanders; and as consumers of sports for entertainment. Additionally, this course deals with the organization of sports and sports organizations as representations of social organizations in general, which can be analyzed in terms of goals and norms, social roles, manifest and latent functions, including all the complex social dynamics that characterize other social organizations, such as stratification (e.g., by race, class, and gender). Lastly, this course deals with the political economy of big time sports at the university and professional level and the intricate dynamics of money-generating amateur sports and the business of professional sports. Through this course, students will be introduced to the conceptual and theoretical tools necessary to analyze sports and their relation to major social issues. Students will learn to apply general principles of sociology to the analysis of multiple types of sports and critically evaluate different types of sports in terms of their uses.

## OBJECTIVES

Washington State University's *Seven Learning Goals of the Baccalaureate* identify core skills and knowledge that students should develop through their undergraduate studies. Several of these learning goals are fundamental to the development of this course. Along with the Department of Sociology's aim to develop student skills in critical thinking, quantitative and symbolic reasoning, research methods, information literacy, communication and life-long learning, this course has specific learning outcomes that aim to equip students to succeed after graduation.

### Student Learning Outcomes

The specific Student Learning Outcomes for this course are included in the table below, followed by the relevant WSU Learning Goal(s). Also listed are the course topics and assignments that connect to these learning outcomes.

At the end of this course, students should be able to:	Course topics (and dates) that address these learning outcomes:	This objective will be evaluated primarily by:
1. critically assess research literature on sociology of sport ( <i>WSU Goal: Critical and Creative Thinking</i> )	Several weeks of the semester will address this learning outcome	Film Reports & Exams
2. recognize, define, and understand theoretical and empirical approaches to studying sports from a sociological perspective ( <i>WSU Goals: Information Literacy, Scientific Literacy</i> )	Each week's topics, readings, and activities will address this learning outcome	Course Engagement Journal, Film Reports, & Exams
3. identify and evaluate social problems related to the study of sport ( <i>WSU Goals: Information Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking</i> )	Each week's topics, readings, and activities will address this learning outcome	Course Engagement Journal, Film Reports, & Exams
4. apply course concepts to personal experiences ( <i>WSU Goals: Critical and Creative Thinking, Information Literacy</i> )	Each week of this course will address this learning goal	Course Engagement Journal & Film Reports

## SUMMARY OF COURSE EXPECTATIONS

### Readings

Each week there will be readings assigned from the textbook. Readings are listed in the course schedule found on this syllabus. They will be listed on the course website as well. Supplemental readings, videos, and podcasts will be required as well; these will be included on the course website. You are expected to have completed all of the readings before the class for which they are listed.

## **Class Attendance, Participation, and Classroom Behavior**

You are expected to attend all class meetings, as it is vital to receive the information given out in lectures. When in class, you are expected to be engaged in class and participate in any class discussions and activities. In addition, behavior that is detrimental to the classroom will not be tolerated. This includes comments that are disrespectful to fellow students, instructors, or other members of society. Furthermore, **use of electronic devices should remain relevant to the course**. To avoid the temptation, I recommend silencing phones and limiting use of tablets and laptops to taking notes.

Additionally, please **do not use your phones to take pictures of the lecture slides**. If I am going too quickly during lectures, please ask me to slow down. However, your notes do not need to include every word from every slide. I encourage you to work with your classmates to compare notes to see what you might have missed during the lecture. Office hours are another opportunity to see if you missed anything in your notes.

## **Weekly Course Engagement Journals (75 points; 15% of final grade)**

During each week of the course (except for Thanksgiving break) you need to submit an entry to the weekly Course Engagement Journal on **Blackboard**. These entries are intended to show me that you are actively engaged in the course in some way. These must be submitted by the **end of the day on Sunday of each week**. Each week's entry is worth **5 points**. You will need to write one paragraph that discusses one of the following things:

- something you learned during the week in this class through the lectures, textbook, or other class activities (title these entries '**Learned**');
- something you saw in the sports world that relates to sociology (title these '**Sports World**'); or
- something about sociology or sociology of sport that you do not quite understand or have questions about (title these entries '**Questions**').

## **Exams (three at 75 points each; 15% of final grade each)**

The course will include three in-class exams worth 75 points each. The exams are not cumulative; they will only cover concepts from the chapters, films, and other materials in that unit. Exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or multiple response. Specifics about each exam will be given later.

Exams can be made up only with approved documentation. The format for a make-up exam may be altered from the regularly scheduled exam. You must inform me as soon as you can about the need for a make-up.

## **Brief Film Reports (four at 30 points each; 6% of final grade each)**

Throughout the semester, we will watch four sports-related films during class time. For each of these films, you need to complete a Brief Film Report, in which you analyze the film through a sociological lens.

Your report should be **roughly 300 words in length**. These reports are due on **September 14, October 5, October 26, and November 16** (one week after we watch each film in class). Grading will be based on your critical thinking, the insight of your report, and the application of course content and concepts (from the textbook). More information about expectations for the assignment and specific due dates for each film's report will be provided in a separate document.

## **In-depth Film Report (one at 80 points; 16% of final grade)**

In addition to the four films we watch in class, you will need to watch one sports film of your choosing on your own and write an In-depth Film Report, much like the Brief Film Reports. This may be a feature film or documentary, but it needs to contain sociological content you can analyze—but almost every film has sociological content! This report will be **roughly four (4) double-spaced pages (about 1,000 to 1,200 words)** and must be **submitted via Blackboard by midnight on Friday, November 30**. More information on this assignment will be provided separately.

**Note:** Blackboard submissions will use SafeAssign, which automatically checks submissions for plagiarism and originality. Using the work of others will risk your grade in the class and status at the university.

## Undergraduate Writing Center

The Writing Center provides free, walk-in peer consultation services. Use of the face-to-face services of both the Writing Center (CUE 303) and the Writing Commons (CUE 402) is strongly encouraged. Online tutoring is available through eTutoring.org. Additionally, an extensive list of resources are available on The Writing Center's website (<https://writingprogram.wsu.edu/undergraduate-writing-center/>), covering style, grammar, proper citation, and much more.

## GENERAL GRADING CRITERIA AND POLICIES

Grade Breakdown			Grading Scale			
Course Engagement Journal	75 points	15%	465 – 500 points	A	370 – 384 points	C
Brief Film Reports (4 total)	120 points	24%	450 – 464 points	A-	350 – 369 points	C-
In-Depth Film Report	80 points	16%	435 – 449 points	B+	335 – 349 points	D+
Exam 1	75 points	15%	420 – 434 points	B	300 – 334 points	D
Exam 2	75 points	15%	400 – 419 points	B-	0 – 299 points	F
Exam 3	75 points	15%	385 – 399 points	C+		
Total	500 points	100 %				

### Timely Submission of Assignments

Specific due dates for each assignment are noted on this syllabus or on other course documents. Please adhere to those deadlines. **Late work will not be accepted.**

## UNIVERSITY AND COURSE POLICIES

### WSU Reasonable Accommodation Statement

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities or chronic medical conditions. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Access Center website to follow published procedures to request accommodations: <http://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu>. Students may also either call or visit the Access Center in person to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. Location: Washington Building 217; Phone: 509-335-3417. All disability related accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center. Students with approved accommodations are strongly encouraged to visit with instructors early in the semester during office hours to discuss logistics.

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education. As such, all members of the university community share responsibility for maintaining and promoting the principles of integrity in all activities, including academic integrity and honest scholarship. Academic integrity will be strongly enforced in this course. Students who violate WSU's Academic Integrity Policy (identified in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 504-26-010(3) and -404) will receive academic sanctions appropriate to the severity of the violation, will not have the option to withdraw from the course pending an appeal, and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration as defined in the Standards of Conduct for Students, WAC 504-26-010(3). You need to read and understand all of the definitions of cheating: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=504-26-010>. If you have any questions about what is and is not allowed in this course, you should ask course instructors before proceeding.

If you wish to appeal a faculty member's decision relating to academic integrity, please use the form available at [conduct.wsu.edu](http://conduct.wsu.edu).

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as presenting another's work or ideas as one's own. You are expected to do your own work on all assignments. Students who plagiarize will receive a 0.0 in the course.

### SafeAssign:

This course will utilize SafeAssign for the submission and evaluation of assignments. This is a feature on Blackboard that automatically investigates the originality of text. This is done solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents and ensures others do not use your thoughts and ideas without proper citations. Any assignment submitted outside of SafeAssign will still go through this process, but will be submitted to SafeAssign by the instructor. When non-original text is detected, it does not identify plagiarism necessarily, as verbatim text can be used with proper citation.

## **Attendance Policy**

Students who have not attended class meetings during the first week of the semester may be dropped from the course by the Sociology Department; students should not assume that they have been dropped without verification from the Sociology Department or Registrar's office. Student should not e-mail the instructor to ask whether they have missed something important from class during an absence, as everything covered in class will be important. If a student is absent, it is incumbent upon that student to find out from a classmate what he or she may have missed in class.

## **Limits to Confidentiality**

Assignments and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues based on external legal obligations or that relate to the health and safety of WSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices if you share it with me:

- Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child,
- Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve WSU students, faculty, or staff, and
- Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others.

These reports will trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with WSU Counseling and Psychological Services personnel.

## **Adding or Dropping the Class**

Students are encouraged to contact the Registrar's office for guidance on adding or dropping the class this semester. The Registrar can be contacted at 509- 335-5346 or [registrar@wsu.edu](mailto:registrar@wsu.edu).

## **Safety and Emergency Notification:**

Classroom and campus safety are of paramount importance at Washington State University, and are the shared responsibility of the entire campus population. WSU urges students to follow the "Alert, Assess, Act," protocol for all types of emergencies and the "Run, Hide, Fight" response for an active shooter incident. Remain ALERT (through direct observation or emergency notification), ASSESS your specific situation, and ACT in the most appropriate way to assure your own safety (and the safety of others if you are able).

Please sign up for emergency alerts on your account at MyWSU. For more information on this subject, campus safety, and related topics, please view the [FBI's Run, Hide, Fight video](#) and visit the [WSU safety portal](#).

# CLASS SCHEDULE

Note: Calendar is subject to change.

Week	Dates	Topics, Agenda, and Assignments	Readings
<b>Week 1</b>	Tues, Aug 21	Introduction and Syllabus	
	Thurs, Aug 23	The Sociological Analysis of Sport	Sage Ch. 1
<b>Week 2</b>	Tues, Aug 28	Social & Cultural Transformations and the Rise of Sport	Sage Ch. 2
	Thurs, Aug 30	Sport and North American Culture and Values	Sage Ch. 3
<b>Week 3</b>	Tues, Sept 4	Film: <i>Battle of the Sexes</i> (2017) & Discussion	
	Thurs, Sept 6		
<b>Week 4</b>	Tues, Sept 11	Gender in North American Sport: Continuity and Change	Sage Ch. 7
	Thurs, Sept 13		
<b>Week 5</b>	Tues, Sept 18	Sport, Social Stratification, and Social Mobility	Sage Ch. 5
	Thurs, Sept 20	<b>Exam 1</b>	
<b>Week 6</b>	Tues, Sept 25	Film: <i>Sugar</i> (2008) & Discussion	
	Thurs, Sept 27		
<b>Week 7</b>	Tues, Oct 2	Racial-Ethnic Minorities and Sport	Sage Ch. 6
	Thurs, Oct 4		
<b>Week 8</b>	Tues, Oct 9	Youth and Sport	Sage Ch. 8
	Thurs, Oct 11	Interscholastic Sport	Sage Ch. 9
<b>Week 9</b>	Tues, Oct 16	Film: <i>Undefeated</i> (2011) & Discussion	
	Thurs, Oct 18		
<b>Week 10</b>	Tues, Oct 23	Intercollegiate Sport	Sage Ch. 10
	Thurs, Oct 25		
<b>Week 11</b>	Tues, Oct 30	<b>Exam 2</b>	
	Thurs, Nov 1	Sport and Politics	Sage Ch. 13
<b>Week 12</b>	Tues, Nov 6	Film: <i>Next Goal Wins</i> (2014) & Discussion	
	Thurs, Nov 8		
<b>Week 13</b>	Tues, Nov 13	Sport and Economy	Sage Ch. 11
	Thurs, Nov 15		
<b>BREAK</b>	Nov 19-23	HOLIDAY – THANKSGIVING BREAK	
<b>Week 14</b>	Tues, Nov 27	Sport and Mass Media	Sage Ch. 12
	Thurs, Nov 29		
<b>Week 15</b>	Tues, Dec 4	Contemporary Trends and the Future of Sport in North America	Sage Ch. 15
	Thurs, Dec 6		
<b>EXAM</b>	Tues, Dec 11	<b>Exam 3</b> at 10:10am	