

IN-DEPTH FILM REPORTS

SOC 245: SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT

Your in-depth film report will accomplish similar goals to the in-class film responses. However, it will be longer and self-directed. Your goal is to summarize and analyze the film for its sociological content. This report should be **900 to 1,200 words (no more, no less)** and it will be on a film of your choosing (feature film or documentary). At the end of this document, I have provided an extensive list with descriptions and rating scores for over 70 films. These have been regarded as some of the best films about sports, and they all have some sociological content you should extract. You may select a film that is not on this list, however, it should be something you can discuss through a sociological lens. This report needs to be submitted via **Blackboard** by the end of the day on **Friday, April 19**.

Please note that this report will be sent through a **plagiarism checker** during the submission process, which will identify what percentage of the submission is unoriginal content. If you use another source (even paraphrasing) this must be properly cited. For help with proper citation or any other stage of the writing process, I strongly encourage you to visit the **Undergraduate Writing Center (CUE 303)**, which provides free, walk-in peer consultation services.

Your report should accomplish the follow objectives:

- You should spend approximately one page summarizing the content of the film, offering an overview of the plot, major characters, and story arc.
- You then need to spend a page or so identifying three sociological issues raised by the film. I have listed many sociological concepts and issues on the following page. For each issue, explain what incidents in the film led you to think about the issue. If a point of view on the issue is being offered by the film, explain it, but also offer what thoughts were raised in your mind as a result of this.
- The final page or so of the report should analyze each of the issues you raised previously. In this section you should address:
 - Why these are important issues to think about in connection to sport?
 - How do these issues demonstrate that sport is a microcosm of society?
 - If there is a particular problem, how would you solve it in sport and in larger society?
- Use the course textbook and at least one other source that discusses either the meaning of the film or further explain sociological concepts.
- Use at least six 'sociological terms', according to your own view of them and put those in **bold**.
- Include a Reference page. Include the film itself (title, date, director, and leading actors).
- See the rubric below for more information on grading and expectations.

Formatting and structure guidelines:

- Cover page: Title, date, name, class, and **word count**
- Include page numbers
- Double-space the text with a standard font
- 900-1,200 words (excluding cover page and references)
- Divide your paper into these four sections, with section headers:
 - Summary (approx. 300 words)
 - Identification of sociological content. (approx. 300-450 words)
 - Analysis of sociological content. (approx. 300-450 words)
 - Reference page

Below is a list of many concepts/themes to consider applying to your selected film. This list is not all-encompassing but should give you some ideas of where to begin.

general sociological concepts:

- microaggressions
- intersectionality
- sociological theories: functionalism, conflict theory, interactionist theory, feminist theory, Critical Race Theory, hegemony theory

sport, culture, and values:

- sports culture
- social values in sport: competition, conformity, materialism, progress, etc.

athlete identity/character/socialization:

- exiting the athlete role
- loss of athlete identity
- sport and character building (myth?)
- socialization through/into sport

social power:

- social power in college sport
- economic power of athlete/owners
- reserve clause and free agency in professional sport

class/stratification concepts:

- social stratification in sport viewership and participation
- six myths of sport as a mobility escalator

gender and sexuality in sport:

- gender based power differences
- gender role expectations
- three myths of female sport participation
- impact of Title IX
- athlete sexuality and heteronormativity

race and sport:

- racial stacking
- social sources of imbalanced racial representation

youth and high school sport:

- consequences of sport for high school, community, and participants
- youth sport socialization
- academic benefits of sport
- impacts of youth sport
- problems in youth sport
- problems of high school sport

college sport:

- problems in college sport
- amateurism in college sport
- balance of sport and academics in college sport
- four myths of college sport

sport and business:

- corporatization of sport at all levels
- economic benefits of professional sport

sport and media:

- impact of the media in sport
- biased journalism in sport

sport and politics:

- mixing of sport and politics
- five political uses of sport

the future of sport:

- technological change in sport
- the future forms of sport
- social values and the future of sport

Note: Instructions and ideas for this assignment were adapted Dr. Jane Piliavin's movie review assignment used in her SOC 647: Sociology of Sport class at University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her website is <https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~jpiliavi/>.

IN-DEPTH FILM REPORT GRADING RUBRIC

Evaluation Criteria:	Excellent	Good	Needs Work	Severely Lacking
Film summary and evidence of detailed viewing	Report demonstrates careful viewing of the film. Includes plot and character overview with detail. 11-12 pts.	Report demonstrates viewing of the film, but may not include plot and character overview with detail. 9-10 pts.	Report generalizes about the film and does not use specific examples and evidence from the film. 7-8 pts.	Report seems to fabricate information about the film and shows little evidence of viewing. 0-6 pts.
Identification and explanation of first sociological issue or theme	The issue or theme is clearly identified, defined, and explained. The issue or theme is relevant to sociological thinking. 5 pts.	An issue or theme is identified, but is either not clearly defined or not clearly explained. The issue or theme may not be fully relevant to sociology. 4 pts.	An issue or theme is identified, but is neither clearly defined or clearly explained. The issue or theme may be lacking in relevance to sociological thinking. 3 pts.	No clear sociological issue or theme is defined. An issue or theme presented may have little sociological relevance. 0-2 pt.
Identification and explanation of second sociological issue or theme	The issue or theme is clearly identified, defined, and explained. The issue or theme is relevant to sociological thinking. 5 pts.	An issue or theme is identified, but is either not clearly defined or not clearly explained. The issue or theme may not be fully relevant to sociology. 4 pts.	An issue or theme is identified, but is neither clearly defined or clearly explained. The issue or theme may be lacking in relevance to sociological thinking. 3 pts.	No clear sociological issue or theme is defined. An issue or theme presented may have little sociological relevance. 0-2 pt.
Identification and explanation of third sociological issue or theme	The issue or theme is clearly identified, defined, and explained. The issue or theme is relevant to sociological thinking. 5 pts.	An issue or theme is identified, but is either not clearly defined or not clearly explained. The issue or theme may not be fully relevant to sociology. 4 pts.	An issue or theme is identified, but is neither clearly defined or clearly explained. The issue or theme may be lacking in relevance to sociological thinking. 3 pts.	No clear sociological issue or theme is defined. An issue or theme presented may have little sociological relevance. 0-2 pt.
Analysis of first sociological issue or theme	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with relevant course material, sociological theories and concepts, and evidence from the film. 7-8 pts.	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with minimal course material, sociological concepts, or evidence from the film. 6 pts.	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with no course material, sociological concepts, or evidence from the film. 4-5 pts.	The issue or theme is not analyzed or discussed in any meaningful way. 0-3 pts.
Analysis of second sociological issue or theme	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with relevant course material, sociological theories and concepts, and evidence from the film. 7-8 pts.	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with minimal course material, sociological concepts, or evidence from the film. 6 pts.	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with no course material, sociological concepts, or evidence from the film. 4-5 pts.	The issue or theme is not analyzed or discussed in any meaningful way. 0-3 pts.
Analysis of third sociological issue or theme	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with relevant course material, sociological theories and concepts, and evidence from the film. 7-8 pts.	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with minimal course material, sociological concepts, or evidence from the film. 6 pts.	The issue or theme is analyzed and discussed with no course material, sociological concepts, or evidence from the film. 4-5 pts.	The issue or theme is not analyzed or discussed in any meaningful way. 0-3 pts.
Writing & Style (spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, word limit, etc.)	No major grammatical or punctuation errors and very few minor errors. Any minor errors do not interfere with the understanding of the report. 8-9 pts.	The report has few major errors. There may be multiple minor errors as long as they do not interfere with understanding. 7 pts.	The report has a few major errors and multiple minor errors, but the meaning is somewhat clear. 5-6 pts.	The report has so many basic grammar errors and punctuation errors that the essay cannot be readily understood. 0-4 pts.

LIST OF POTENTIAL FILMS:

FEATURE FILMS

Title (year). IMDb Description.	IMDb Rating	Rotten Tomatoes
42 (2013). In 1947, Jackie Robinson becomes the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball in the modern era when he was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers and faces considerable racism in the process.	7.5	79%
61* (2001). Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle race to break Babe Ruth's single-season home run record.	7.8	81%
A League of Their Own (1992). Two sisters join the first female professional baseball league and struggle to help it succeed amidst their own growing rivalry.	7.2	78%
Ali (2001). A biography of sports legend Muhammad Ali, focusing on his triumphs and controversies between 1964 and 1974.	6.8	67%
Any Given Sunday (1999). A behind-the-scenes look at the life-and-death struggles of modern-day gladiators and those who lead them.	6.9	51%
The Bad News Bears (1976). An aging, down-on-his-luck ex-minor leaguer coaches a team of misfits in an ultra-competitive California little league.	7.3	97%
Bang the Drum Slowly (1973). The story of the friendship between a star pitcher, wise to the world, and a half-wit catcher, as they cope with the catcher's terminal illness through a baseball season.	7.0	91%
Bend it Like Beckham (2003). The daughter of orthodox Sikh rebels against her parents' traditionalism and joins a football (soccer) team.	6.7	85%
The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings (1976). Tired of the slave-like treatment of his team's owner, charismatic star Negro League pitcher Bingo Long takes to the road with his band of barnstormers through the small towns of the Midwest in the 1930's.	6.9	87%
The Blind Side (2009). The story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All American football player and first round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family.	7.7	66%
Body and Soul (1947). A talented boxer's young career hits difficult terrain when an unethical promoter takes interest in him.	7.8	100%
Breaking Away (1979). A small-town boy obsessed with the Italian cycling team vies for the affections of a college girl.	7.7	94%
Bull Durham (1988). A fan who has an affair with one minor-league baseball player each season meets an up-and-coming pitcher and the experienced catcher assigned to him.	7.1	97%
Chariots of Fire (1981). Two British track athletes, one a determined Jew, and the other a devout Christian, compete in the 1924 Olympics.	7.2	83%
Cinderella Man (2006). The story of James Braddock, a supposedly washed-up boxer who came back to become a champion and an inspiration in the 1930s.	8.0	80%
Coach Carter (2005). Controversy surrounds high school basketball coach Ken Carter after he benches his entire team for breaking their academic contract with him.	7.3	64%
Concussion (2015). In Pittsburgh, accomplished pathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu uncovers the truth about brain damage in football players who suffer repeated concussions in the course of normal play.	7.1	60%
Cool Runnings (1993). When a Jamaican sprinter is disqualified from the Olympic Games, he enlists the help of a dishonored coach to start the first Jamaican Bobsled Team.	6.9	76%
Eight Men Out (1988). A dramatization of the Black Sox scandal when the underpaid Chicago White Sox accepted bribes to deliberately lose the 1919 World Series.	7.3	86%

Fear Strikes Out (1957). True story of the life of Jimmy Piersall, who battled mental illness to achieve stardom in major league baseball.	7.0	82%
The Fighter (2010). Based on the story of Micky Ward, a fledgling boxer who tries to escape the shadow of his more famous but troubled older boxing brother and get his own shot at greatness.	7.8	90%
Friday Night Lights (2004). Based on H.G. Bissinger's book, which profiled the economically depressed town of Odessa, Texas and their heroic high school football team, The Permian High Panthers.	7.3	81%
Foxcatcher (2014). U.S. Olympic wrestling champions and brothers Mark Schultz and Dave Schultz join "Team Foxcatcher", led by eccentric multi-millionaire John du Pont, as they train for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, but John's self-destructive behavior threatens to consume them all.	7.0	88%
Girlfight (2000). Diana, without her father knowing it, trains as a boxer and achieves impressive success, blazing new trails for female boxers.	6.8	87%
Glory Road (2006). In 1966, Texas Western coach Don Haskins led the first all-black starting line-up for a college basketball team to the NCAA national championship.	7.2	56%
Hoosiers (1988). A coach with a checkered past and a local drunk train a small town high school basketball team to become a top contender for the championship.	7.6	88%
Invictus (2009). Nelson Mandela, in his first term as the South African President, initiates a unique venture to unite the apartheid-torn land: enlist the national rugby team on a mission to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup.	7.4	76%
Invincible (2006). Based on the story of Vince Papale, a 30-year-old bartender from South Philadelphia who overcame long odds to play for the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles in 1976.	7.1	72%
The Jackie Robinson Story (1950). Biography of Jackie Robinson, the first black major league baseball player in the 20th century. Traces his career in the negro leagues and the major leagues.	6.4	63%
Jerry Maguire (1996). When a sports agent has a moral epiphany and is fired for expressing it, he decides to put his new philosophy to the test as an independent agent with the only athlete who stays with him and his former secretary.	7.3	83%
The Longest Yard (1974). A sadistic warden asks a former pro quarterback, now serving time in his prison, to put together a team of inmates to take on (and get pummeled by) the guards.	7.1	81%
McFarland, USA (2015). Jim White moves his family after losing his last job as a football coach. He sees that some of the students are worth starting a cross-country team and turns seven students with no hope into one of the best cross-country teams.	7.4	80%
Million Dollar Baby (2004). A determined woman works with a hardened boxing trainer to become a professional.	8.1	90%
Moneyball (2011). Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane's successful attempt to assemble a baseball team on a lean budget by employing computer-generated analysis to acquire new players.	7.6	94%
The Natural (1984). An unknown comes out of seemingly nowhere to become a legendary player with almost divine talent.	7.5	82%
North Dallas Forty (1979). A semi-fictional account of life as a professional (American-style) football player. Loosely based on the Dallas Cowboys team of the early 1970s.	7.0	87%
Offside (2006). Struggle of women in a country that excludes them from entering the stadiums.	7.3	94%
Personal Best (1982). The intertwined lives and loves of three highly-ranked athletes striving for the national team; Chris bounces between the beds of male coach Terry and her female friend, competitor, and role model Tory.	6.3	71%

The Program (1993). Several players from different backgrounds try to cope with the pressures of playing football at a major university. Each deals with the pressure differently, some turn to drinking, others to drugs, and some to studying.	6.4	45%
Raging Bull (1980). The life of boxer Jake LaMotta, as the violence and temper that leads him to the top in the ring destroys his life outside of it.	8.2	95%
Remember the Titans (2000). The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit.	7.8	73%
The Replacements (2000). During a pro football strike, the owners hire substitute players.	6.5	41%
Rocky (1976). A small-time boxer gets a supremely rare chance to fight a heavy-weight champion in a bout in which he strives to go the distance for his self-respect.	8.1	93%
The Rookie (2002). A Texas baseball coach makes the major league after agreeing to try out if his high school team made the playoffs.	7.0	84%
Rudy (1993). Rudy has always been told that he was too small to play college football. But he is determined to overcome the odds and fulfill his dream of playing for Notre Dame.	7.5	78%
Seabiscuit (2003). True story of the undersized Depression-era racehorse whose victories lifted not only the spirits of the team behind it but also those of their nation.	7.3	77%
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (2006). Number one NASCAR driver Ricky Bobby stays atop the heap thanks to a pact with his best friend and teammate, Cal Naughton, Jr. But when a French Formula One driver, makes his way up the ladder, Ricky Bobby's talent and devotion are put to the test.	6.6	71%
We are Marshall (2006). When a plane crash claims the lives of members of the Marshall University football team and some of its fans, the team's new coach and his surviving players try to keep the football program alive.	7.1	49%
White Men Can't Jump (1992). Black and white basketball hustlers join forces to double their chances of winning money on the street courts and in a basketball tournament.	6.7	77%
The Wrestler (2008). A faded professional wrestler must retire, but finds his quest for a new life outside the ring a dispiriting struggle.	7.9	98%

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Title (year). IMDb Description.	IMDb Rating	Rotten Tomatoes
The Armstrong Lie (2013). A documentary chronicling sports legend Lance Armstrong's improbable rise and ultimate fall from grace.	7.3	82%
Bigger, Stronger, Faster* (2008). An examination of America's win-at-all-cost culture from the perspective of bodybuilding and performance enhancing drugs, as it focuses on a pair of siblings chasing their dream.	7.6	96%
The Boxing Girls of Kabul (2012). A group of young Afghan women train to represent their country as boxers in the 2012 Olympics.	7.0	
Dare to Dream: The Story of the U.S. Women's Soccer Team (2007). Documentary chronicling the rise of U.S. women's soccer. Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, and other players of note are profiled.	7.9	
Dogtown and Z-Boys (2001). Documentary about the pioneering 1970s Zephyr skating team.	7.7	92%
The Heart of the Game (2005). A documentary Roosevelt Roughriders, a girls' high-school basketball team in Seattle, and one player's fight to regain her eligibility to play.	7.7	87%
† Hoop Dreams (1994). A film following the lives of two inner-city Chicago boys who struggle to become college basketball players on the road to going professional.	8.3	98%
Icarus (2017). When Bryan Fogel sets out to uncover the truth about doping in sports, a chance meeting with a Russian scientist transforms his story from a personal experiment into a geopolitical thriller.	8.0	93%

Killer Bees (2017). A championship high school basketball team provides pride, tradition and hope for an African American community struggling to survive in the middle of one of the wealthiest communities in America - The Hamptons.	8.5	
† League of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis (2013). An investigation of the health crisis threatening NFL players and the long-term fortunes of football.	8.2	
Murderball (2005). Quadriplegics, who play full-contact rugby in wheelchairs, overcome unimaginable obstacles to compete in the Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece.	7.8	98%
More Than a Game (2008). This documentary follows NBA superstar LeBron James and four of his talented teammates through the trials and tribulations of high school basketball in Ohio and James' journey to fame.	7.7	71%
The Program (2015). An Irish sports journalist becomes convinced that Lance Armstrong's performances during the Tour de France victories are fueled by banned substances. With this conviction, he starts hunting for evidence that will expose Armstrong.	6.5	61%
Pumping Iron (1977). From Gold's Gym in Venice Beach California to the showdown in Pretoria, amateur and professional bodybuilders prepare for the 1975 Mr. Olympia and Mr. Universe contests in this part-scripted, part-documentary film.	7.4	94%
† Racing the Rez (2012). After a narrow win hands Tuba City High School their 19th state championship, second place finisher Chinle sets out to topple their rivals and finally claim victory for themselves.	7.9	
Riding Giants (2004). Documentary detailing the origins and history of surf culture.	7.9	93%
Run to the East (2010). Three Native American high school seniors run to earn college scholarships and overcome the economic and educational obstacles present on their reservations.		
Senna (2010). A documentary on Brazilian Formula One racing driver Ayrton Senna, who won the F1 world championship three times before his death at age 34.	8.6	92%
Shadow Boxers (1999). Why do women fight? This riveting behind-the-scenes look into the world of the female combatant takes us from manicures to knockouts!	6.8	
Sleeping Giant: An Indian Football Story (2012). In a country often described as Football's last untapped frontier, two children are selected from a possible 1700 hopefuls for a once in a lifetime opportunity.	9.2	
† Training Rules (2009). Examines how women's collegiate sports, caught in a web of homophobic practices, collude in the destruction of the lives and dreams of many of its most talented athletes.	7.2	
When We Were Kings (1996). A documentary of the 1974 heavyweight championship bout in Zaire, "The Rumble in the Jungle," between champion George Foreman and underdog challenger Muhammad Ali.	8.0	98%
† Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson (2004). The story of Jack Johnson, the first African-American Heavyweight boxing champion.	8.3	100%

† films can be streamed for free at wsu.kanopy.com