

# SOCI 3740: Sociology of Sport

## Spring Semester 2008

<b>Instructor:</b>	Daniel Buffington, Graduate Teaching Assistant
<b>Classroom:</b>	Baldwin Hall, 307 (period 3 and 5)
<b>Lecture Sessions:</b>	MWF: 10:10-11:00AM (period 3) & 12:20-1:10 (period 5)
<b>Instructor's Office:</b>	Baldwin Hall, 420
<b>Instructor's Office Hours:</b>	MWF, 11:00 AM-12:10 PM, or by appointment
<b>Instructor's Contact Information:</b>	email: <a href="mailto:d buffering@uga.edu">d buffering@uga.edu</a> office phone number: 542-4057 or 542-2421 (main office)

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### Course Description and Objectives

Hello and welcome to Sociology 3740.

This course will explore the structural and cultural relationship of sport to society. Particular attention will be given to issues of race, gender, deviance, economics, and media as they relate to sport. Throughout the semester we will investigate both historical and contemporary issues in sport and society. Although particular attention will be given to the United States, class material will also cover issues pertinent to international sport as well as the process of globalization which increasingly links sporting practices from across the globe. The goals of this course will be to provide students with a sociological understanding of sport that will compliment and challenge their everyday knowledge as well as to develop a greater understanding of sociological theories and concepts. These goals will be achieved through a mixture of lectures, discussions, readings, assignments, and written examinations.

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### Course Materials

Readings: available through the *library reserve system* or as a printed *course packet from Bil-Jean*

Since this is an upper level course, we will be reading primary texts exclusively. I have chosen a number of articles and book chapters that present key ideas, theories, and themes that will be developed during the lecture period.

You can obtain the readings one of two ways. First, they are available for free through UGA's main library system. They can be found online through the library's e-reserve system at: [www.libs.uga.edu](http://www.libs.uga.edu). Click on "course reserves," then "search course reserves" and under the "instructor" field select my name. Each article will be titled by the reading number indicated in the course outline below. In order to obtain the articles online, the computer you are using must have Adobe Acrobat Reader (can be downloaded for free at [adobe.com](http://adobe.com)) and you must enter a password: \_\_\_\_\_. In addition, physical copies of all readings are available at the main library's reserve desk. These should be available whenever the library is open for copying or reading. The call number for the reserve file is \_\_\_\_\_. Second, Bil Jean Copy Center (163 E Broad, 548-3658) will be preparing a course packet with all the required readings. This should be available for around \$45.

Throughout the semester we will also utilize contemporary events in the sports world to elicit more in-depth understandings of the material we cover. Therefore, it is recommended that you familiarize yourself with daily news reports. In addition, ESPN's *Outside the Lines* and HBO's *Real Sports* often provide excellent discussion of contemporary events within the sports world and their relationship to society.

## Course Requirements and Grades

Final grades will be based on your performance in four areas:

### (1) Exams (58%; 260 pts.)

This course will have 4 examinations, each correlating with the four units covered. Each exam will consist of 10 multiple choice questions (1 point a piece for a total of 20 points), 3 short answer essays (5 points a piece for a total of 15 points), and 2 longer essays (15 points a piece for a total of 30 pts). Each exam will be worth 65 points total. These exams will not be cumulative.

**MISSED EXAMS:** Make-ups will be given only under circumstances of serious illness or emergency (to be determined by the instructor). *You must contact me in advance of the test time.* Written documentation may be required before a request for a make-up is granted. Exams not made up will receive a zero. I reserve the right to offer a different exam than that offered during the normal test-taking period.

### (2) Reading Quizzes (20%; 90 pts.)

Because so much of the course will hinge on the articles we will have quizzes on all 18 readings for this course. These quizzes will be given on the day in which the reading is due (see course outline below and WebCT calendar). If you take all 18 quizzes over the course of the semester I will replace your lowest score with a perfect one at the end of the semester.

The make-up policy for reading quizzes is the same as that for exams. You must contact me ahead of time so that I may determine if the absence is legitimate (documentation may be required). A summary paper of the article/book chapter must be completed to make up missed quizzes (I will send you instructions via email once the absence has been verified). Failure to work out your absence in advance with ample time to complete the assignment will not be a legitimate reason for a late make up paper. Those who arrive late to class will not be allowed to make up the quiz.

### (3) Participation (4.5%; 20 pts.)

In a class this size we have the possibility of interacting a little more, so your participation is expected and required. ***Your grade will be determined by the amount and quality of participation*** on the WebCT discussion boards, the in-class discussion of the readings, and group work. Note that while I do not check attendance, you cannot participate if you do not show up to class. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to seek out notes and handouts from fellow students or to view films on your own time, through your own arrangements. ***I will not re-summarize missed material for you!***

### (4) mini-projects (17.5%; 80 pts)

There will also be 8 mini-projects to be completed over the course of the semester. These assignments will ask you to perform some brief data collection and/or writing on subject matter covered in class. As such, they are primarily intended to expand your opportunity to learn and apply terms, theories, and concepts developed in the course. These assignments will be handed out in class, with the directions and due dates discussed then as well. As with the exams and reading quizzes, no late assignments will be accepted unless worked out in advance with me for approved reasons.

<u>Summary of course point totals:</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
4 exams, 65 points per:	260 points	A: 418.5-450	C+: 346.5- 359.5
18 Reading Quizzes, 5 points per:	90 points	A-: 405-418	C: 328.5-346
Class Participation, 5 pts per quarter	20 points	B+: 391.5-404.5	C-: 315-328
8 mini-projects, 10 pts per:	80 points	B: 373.5-391	D: 270-314.5
<u>Total points possible</u>	<u>450 points</u>	B-: 360-373	F: 269.5 and below

\*\*\*No rounding will take place

**Withdrawals:** Students who withdraw from the class before the first exam will be given a “W” regardless of their grade. Students who withdrawal between the 1<sup>st</sup> exam and the official withdrawal deadline (Tuesday, March 4th) who do not at them time have a failing grade will be assigned a mark of “W”. Those who have a failing grade will be assigned a “WF”. These grades do have an impact on financial aid, athletic eligibility, and some shcolarships. Please contact the appropriate advisor if you have questions about the specific impact. Withdrawls after the midpoint are automatically assigned a “WF,” which can only be avoided by contacting the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs (542-3564) and being granted a “Hardship withdrawl.”

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or health-related issues who need classroom accommodations should see me after class, during office hours, or make an appointment. I take these requests very seriously and will make every attempt to accommodate reasonable requests.

**Academic Honesty:** All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Ignorance of these rules and regulations is not an acceptable defense of academic dishonesty. You may read the rules and regulations online at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

**Classroom etiquette:** The success of this class depends on having a productive classroom environment. Arriving late, leaving early, talking to friends, reading the newspaper, doing crossword puzzles, eating, and leaving your cell phone or pager on are all behaviors that distract me and other students. *I reserve the right to withdraw students from the class (with a W or WF) who are repetitively disruptive.*

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### **Tentative Course Outline:**

The course outline is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The date in **bold brackets** [ ] underneath each reading number is the day for which that particular reading has been assigned. If changes to this schedule are necessary, they will be announced in class and updated on the course’s WebCT calendar.

\*\*\*\*\***UNIT 1/Introduction to a Sociological Perspective on Sport**\*\*\*\*\*

January 7<sup>th</sup> - February 6<sup>th</sup>

#### **Topic 1: History, Culture and the Mass Media**

- Reading 1:           Womack (1992) “Why Athletes Need Ritual: A Study of Magic Among  
[1/11]                   Professional Athletes” in Sport and Religion (S. Hoffman, Ed.)
- Reading 2:           Messner, Duncan, & Wachs (1996) “The Gender of Audience Building:  
[1/16]                   Televised Coverage of Men’s and Women’s NCAA Basketball” *Sociological  
Inquiry*, vol 66
- Film clip             Playing Unfair: The Media Image of the Female Athlete (Media  
                                  Education Foundation)
- Reading 3:           Wilson & Sparks (1996) “It’s gotta be the shoes’: Youth, Race, and Sneaker  
[1/23]                   Commercials” *Sociology of Sport Journal* (hereafter: *SSJ*), vol 13

## Topic 2: Deviance and Crime

Reading 4: Dunning, Murphy, & Williams (1986) "Spectator Violence at Football  
[1/28] Matches: Towards a Sociological Explanation" *British Journal of Sociology*,  
vol 38

Film Hooligans: No One Likes Us (BBC)

Reading 5: Waddington (2000) Ch. 5 "Doping in Sport" & Ch. 7 ("Towards a  
[2/1] Sociological Explanation") from Sport, Drugs, and Health Culture

### UNIT 1 Exam scheduled for WED, February 6<sup>th</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*UNIT 2/Sport and Inequality\*\*\*\*\*  
February 8<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Topic 4: Sport and Race/Ethnicity

Film Race: The Power of Illusion (PBS)

Reading 6: Margolis & Piliavin (1999) "Stacking in Major League Baseball: A  
[2/13] Multivariate Analysis" *SSJ*, vol 16

Reading 7: Klein (2000). "Latinizing Fenway Park: A Cultural Critique of the Boston Red  
[2/18] Sox, Their Fans, and the Media" *SSJ* vol 17

## Topic 5: Sport and Gender

Reading 8: Heywood & Dworkin (2003) Ch.2 "Sport as Stealth Feminism of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave"  
[2/22] from Built to Win

Reading 9: Messner (1992) Ch1 "Sport, Men, and Gender" and Ch. 3 "The Meaning of  
[2/27] Success" from Power at Play

### UNIT 2 Exam scheduled for MON, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*UNIT 3/ Sport and Social Mobility\*\*\*\*\*  
March 5<sup>th</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>

## Topic 6: Sport and Social Stratification

Film: Hoop Dreams

Reading 10: Leonard (1996) "The Odds of Transiting from One Level of Sports  
[3/17] Participation to Another" *SSJ* vol 13

Reading 11: Wacquant (1992) "The Social Logic of Boxing in Black Chicago: Towards a  
[3/21] Sociology of Pugilism" *SSJ* vol 9

## Topic 7: Sport and Education

- Reading 12: May (2001) “The Sticky Situation of Sportsmanship” *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, vol 25  
[3/24]
- Reading 13: Alder & Adler (1987) “Role Conflict and Identity Salience: College Athletics and the Academic Role” *Social Science Journal*, vol 24  
[3/28]
- Reading 14: Eitzen (2003) “The Contradictions of Big-Time College Sports” in Fair and Foul: Beyond the Myths and Paradoxes of Sport  
[4/2]
- Film clip Where’s Ours? (60 Minutes)

### **Unit 3 Exam scheduled for MON April 7<sup>th</sup>**

\*\*\*\*\*Unit 4/ Sport in a (post) Modern world\*\*\*\*\*

### **April 9<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>**

- Reading 15: Harvey, Law, and Cantelon. (2001) “North American Professional Team Sport Franchises Ownership Patterns and Global Entertainment Conglomerates” *SSJ* vol 18  
[4/11]
- Reading 16: Friedman, Andrews, and Silk (2004) “Sport and the Facade of Redevelopment in the Postindustrial City” *SSJ* vol 21  
[4/14]
- Reading 17: Sack and Zuster (2000) “Soccer and Croatian Nationalism: A Prelude to War” *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, vol 24  
[4/21]
- Reading 18: J. Maguire (1999) “Global Trails: Migrant Labour and Elite Sport Cultures” in Global Sport  
[4/25]

### **UNIT 4 Exam is scheduled for Final Exam Period:**

(Period 3) Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 8-11AM rm. 307

(Period 5) Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 12-3PM rm. 307

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### **Important Dates (Mark your calendar!)**

- Drop/Add ends: Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>
- Exam 1: Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>
- Exam 2: Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Deadline for Withdrawal: Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>
- Exam 3: Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Exam 4: (Period 3) Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 8-11AM rm. 307  
(Period 5) Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 12-3PM rm. 307  
(during final exam period)

## Human Rights Statement

All students should know that the Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of student grievances. Any student registered for a sociology course at the University of Georgia who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- (1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit this.
- (2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should then discuss the problem with the Head of the Department of Sociology.
- (3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the student, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia.

The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with procedures on file in the Sociology office, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student complainant and the instructor involved. The Department Head will review the recommendations and make a decision in writing, with copies to the students complainant and the instructor or staff member involved. Any appeal of that decision must be to the Dean of the college of Arts and Sciences.

## Thinking about Minor or Majoring in Sociology?

*To **major** in sociology, you must take:*

- (a) one prerequisite course, SOCI 1101 (Introductory Sociology)
- (b) three required courses:
  - (1) STAT 2000 (Elementary Statistics)
  - (2) SOCI 3220 (Development of Sociological Theory)
  - (3) either SOCI 3600 (Logic and Practice of Sociological Research) *or* SOCI 3590 (Qualitative Research Methods)
- (c) six sociology electives, five of which must be 3000-level or higher (SOCI 3740 fits here). The sixth elective must be a 2000-level or higher class.

Note that STAT 2000 is a prerequisite for SOCI 3600. The Department of Sociology strongly recommends that majors take SOCI 3590 or SOCI 3600 as soon as the major is declared. Those courses provide knowledge and skills that will be useful in all your sociology courses. SOCI 1101 serves as the prerequisite for most other courses in the department.

*To **minor** in sociology, you must take:*

- (a) one prerequisite course, SOCI 1101 (Introductory Sociology)
- (b) four sociology electives, one which has to be at the 2000-level or higher and three of which have to be at the 3000-level or higher. (Note that if you use SOCI 1101 to satisfy the Core Area E requirement, then you must take a fifth elective at the 2000-level or higher.)