

Sociology 114: Sport and Society
Instructor: Joel Domhoff

Summer Session I
T-Th 6-9:45p*
SocSci 2, Rm. 75

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This course will go beyond the box scores and the statistics of the sporting world and instead delve into the issues surrounding sport in society. Some of these issues include: race, gender, education, youth in sport, religion, homophobia, mass media, violence, sports and social mobility, deviance in sport, history, and politics. While many may be surprised that these issues exist in the world of sports, this class will debate whether sport is a reflection of society. We will also attempt to answer the more general question of, what is the nature and history of sport?

Requirements: Attendance! Class discussion. There will be reading responses, written responses to movies and guest lectures, and a term paper. **Reading requirements:** A reader that **MUST** be purchased, without exceptions, price \$25, cash or check.

A **tentative** schedule follows:

Week One: Defining the sociology of sport: What is it, why study it?
Drugs in sport---does it even matter? Can it be policed?
Reading: Intro, Drugs and Sport, start on Youth and Sport
Videos: 20-20 video/"Bigger, Stronger, Faster*"
Writing Assignment: Sports Autobiography

Week Two: Youth sports---Parents and Coaches out of control?
Why do kids quit PE/Sports so early? Why is PE phased out in school?
Reading: Youth and Sport, start on Women and Sport
Video: Hoop Dreams
Writing Assignments: guest speaker write up, movie review

Guest Speaker: TBA

Week Three: Gender issues---Do sports cause violent sexual behavior?
Should women athletes be treated the same as men?
Title IX: Why so much controversy?
Reading: Women and Sport/Deviance/Masculinity, start Race/NCAA
Videos: Sports and Sex, Title IX debate
Writing Assignments: guest speaker write up, movie review

Guest Speaker: Eva Twardokens, 2-time Olympic skier, 6-time national champion

Week Four: Race and Sport---Is the playing field level?
Have conditions improved?
NCAA---Educator or exploiter?
Reading: Race and Sport/NCAA, start on Business/Politics
Video: Fists of Freedom/Frontline
Writing Assignments: reading write up, movie review
Guest Speaker: Reggie Stephens, NFL/NY Giants, AFL/Nashville Kats

Week Five: Business and Politics of Sport---Good or bad?
Could sports and the media live without each other?
The positive side of sport---Is there one? Ali
Reading: Finish reader
Videos: One Day in September, Not Just A Game
Writing Assignments: term paper due, movie review

The writing assignments will be discussed in further detail, as we get closer to them. The prompt for the term paper will be handed out during week two. The reading assignments should be completed at the *start* of that week. In other words, for week three, the readings on women and sport should be done by July 8th. By July 22nd, you should have all of the reading done, with the exception of Positive/Ali, which must be done by the 24th. Please feel free to ask questions about anything that is unclear as the class progresses. I am here to help and make this an educational and enjoyable five weeks for both you and me.

Important Note: This is a **tentative** schedule that is subject to change. Not all of the guest speakers have been confirmed.