

**Sociology 114: Sport and Society**

**Instructor:** Joel Domhoff

Summer Session I 2018

T-Th 6-9:30p\*

Soc Sci 2, Rm. 71

Office Hours: By Appt.

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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

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

Video: Hoop Dreams

Writing Assignments: guest speaker write up, movie review

**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 & Sport/Deviance/Masculinity

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?  
Reading: Race and Sport  
Video: Fists of Freedom  
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?  
NCAA---Educator or exploiter?  
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 the week. For example, for week three, the readings on Women and Sport should be done by July 10th. By July 24th, you should have all of the reading done, with the exception of Positive/Ali in the reader, which must be done by the 26th. 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.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

DROP DEADLINE: JULY 2nd (tuition refund)

WITHDRAW DEADLINE: JULY 13th (no tuition refund)

*If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) for more information.*