

# SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

SOC 241 - Call Number 10907  
Fall Semester 2006

MWF: 1:55-2:50 p.m.  
Gulick Hall Room 206A



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Office Hours: Mon. & Fri. 10:30-11:30 a.m., and  
Wednesdays 3:00-4:30 p.m. (& by appointment)  
Office Location: Stern 212

**The Sociology of Sport – Some Context:** Sport sociology is a relatively new specialization within the discipline. Although the origins of the sociology of sport date back to the 1960s, it was not until the 1980s that sport sociology gained notable recognition as a distinct area of study. Sport sociology has continued to grow dramatically over the past two decades, with sport sociologists having been especially prolific in the last five years. You are therefore taking this course during an exciting and formative era within the field, thus putting you in the position to potentially contribute to the ongoing development of the sociology of sport.

**Course Description:** In this class you will study the basic theories, concepts, findings, and methods that make up sport sociology. More fundamentally, you will learn how to examine sport from a sociological perspective. Like other social institutions, sport provides people with a sense of identity, a basis for relationships with others, and a connection to the broader social structure. Accordingly, we will go beyond our personal experiences as sports participants and fans by examining the interconnections between sport and other features of society, including education, socialization, values, deviance, the economy, and the media. Ultimately, we will see that sport provides us with a context for examining race, class, gender, sexuality, the body, and other key dimensions of social stratification. Studying sport from a sociological perspective will therefore help us recognize how power shapes relationships and life experiences within sport, and in turn how sport both reflects and affects broader social structural arrangements.

**Course Objectives:** The primary objectives of this course are to provide you with:

- An introduction to sport sociology that can serve as a foundation (and motivation) for future study
- A thorough recognition of sport as a phenomenon that influences and reflects social relationships
- A better understanding of the forces and dynamics that shape sport, the ability to critically assess them, and the desire to use your knowledge to make a positive difference in the world you occupy
- Exposure to diverse viewpoints on the topics covered in this class
- A positive learning experience

**Course Materials:** The following books are *required* for the course:

1. *Sociology of North American Sport Seventh Edition* (2003). D. Stanley Eitzen and George H. Sage. McGraw-Hill.
2. *Contemporary Issues in Sociology of Sport* (2001). Andrew Yiannakis and Merrill J. Melnick (editors). Human Kinetics.
3. *Fair and Foul: Beyond the Myths and Paradoxes of Sport, Third Edition*, by D. Stanley Eitzen (2006). Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
4. *High Stakes: Big Time Sports and Downtown Redevelopment* (2004). Timothy Jon Curry, Kent Schwirian, and Rachael A. Woldoff. The Ohio State University Press.
5. *Inside the Olympic Industry: Power, Politics, and Activism* (2000). Helen Jefferson Lenskyj. State University of New York Press.
6. *Taking the Field: Women, Men, and Sports* (2002). Michael A. Messner. University of Minnesota Press.

**Evaluation - Course Requirements:** A series of class participation activities, three writing assignments, and a take home final exam comprise the formal requirements for this course.

- I. ***Writing Assignments:*** You will complete three writing assignments this semester. First, to aid you in applying course material to your own life experience, you will prepare a “Sport Autobiography.” Your Sport Autobiography will be in the 7-9 page range and will count for 10% of your course grade. Next, you will complete a “Doing Sociology” assignment, which can be done either alone or with one other student in the class. You will get to select one of three possible options that I have developed (1. the interview option, 2. the observation option, or 3. the content analysis option). The Doing Sociology assignment will allow you to directly engage in the research strategies that sociologists rely on to learn about the social world. You will analyze the ‘data’ that you collect, and you will then give a presentation of your findings to the class (*See Participation Activities below*) and submit a paper that is 10-14 pages. This assignment will be a fun way to “do” sociology and will count for 15% of your course grade. The third and final writing assignment that you will complete for this course is your “Topic of Interest” paper, which will be 12-16 pages and will serve as the basis for the poster session that we will conduct on the last day of regularly scheduled classes (*See Class Participation Activities below*). The Topic of Interest paper will count for 15% of your final course grade, and you will write about a sport sociology topic of your choice (upon my approval). *I will distribute more specific instructions for all of the writing assignments during class.*
- II. ***Class Participation Activities:*** In order to expose each of us to a broader range of topics within the sociology of sport, I have developed a series of in-class activities. Taken together, these activities will count for 45% of your final course grade. Please note that you will be expected to talk about the readings during each class session, and you will likely be called on regularly. You may additionally be asked to help lead discussion from time to time. Failure to contribute to class discussions will affect the participation component of your final grade. Besides daily contributions to discussions your participation grade is based on the following in-class activities. First, you will give a presentation on your “Doing Sociology” assignment. Second, I have developed a list of “Scavenger Hunt” items that each student will need to bring to class for our discussion of sport and the media. Third, each student in the class will be responsible for giving three “Artifact Presentations” during the semester. These Artifact Presentations will be brief and informal presentations that will take no more than five minutes, and they will entail bringing in and discussing an artifact that relates to the topic(s) of the day. A list of sample artifacts might include newspaper articles, advertisements, and cartoons. Finally, you will present some basic information from your “Topic of Interest” paper during our poster session. *I will distribute more specific instructions for all of the participation activities during class.*

**III. Take Home Final Exam:** You will complete a take home final exam, which must be turned in directly to me between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. I will provide more information on your take home final as we get closer to the end of the semester. The take home exam will be worth 15% of your final course grade.

**Grading:** Final course grades will be assigned using the following scale:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 300-293 points = A+ | 232-221 points = C  |
| 292-281 points = A  | 220-209 points = C- |
| 280-269 points = A- | 208-203 points = D+ |
| 268-263 points = B+ | 202-191 points = D  |
| 262-251 points = B  | 190-179 points = D- |
| 250-239 points = B- | 178-000 points = F  |
| 238-233 points = C+ |                     |

*The points you earn from participating and on the exam and assignments will be added up to give you your total number of points for the course:*

Take Home Final = 45 points  
Daily Participation in Discussions = 45 points  
Topic of Interest Paper = 45 points  
Doing Sociology Paper = 45 points  
Sport Autobiography = 30 points  
Doing Sociology Presentation = 30 points  
Artifact Presentations = 30 points (3 @ 10 pts. each)  
Poster Session Participation = 15 points  
Scavenger Hunt Participation = 15 points

**Advice for doing well in this course:** I strongly suggest that you do the following:

- I. Complete the reading before each class session
- II. Take good notes
- III. Ask questions
- IV. Form study relationships with others in the class
- V. Meet with me during office hours (especially if you have questions or problems)

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities should contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Teaching and Learning (Harris House, 678 South Main Street. 315-781-3351). Students may disclose their disabilities in as confidential a manner as possible and are responsible for seeking available assistance in a timely manner. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible for further information about available accommodations. Please note that students can also contact this office for consultation if they believe they have an undiagnosed disability.

## **Class Policies:**

**Classroom Etiquette:** Many of us have passionate feelings about the topics covered in this course (which is a good thing). While discussion and open debate are fundamental components of this class, it is crucial for our class sessions to be comfortable and conducive to learning for all participants. Please do your part to foster a positive environment by treating each member of our class with respect, showing up on time (and not leaving early), participating, and abiding by the rules and requests listed below:

- Please be sure to turn your electronics and cell phone ringers off before class begins
- Headphones are not to be used in class at any time
- Students who wish to record lectures must first get permission from the instructor
- The use of smokeless tobacco products (and other drugs) is prohibited inside the classroom
- Students who sleep, work on materials that are not related to this class, read newspapers, or engage in other inattentive and disrespectful behaviors during class time will be dismissed for the day with no possibility of making up any materials missed

**Attendance:** Your regular attendance and participation contributes to a positive classroom environment, and your contributions are valued and important for every class session. Attendance will be taken *at least* once each class meeting - it is your responsibility to make sure that you have signed the sheet(s). Please note that **each student is allowed three absences from class**. Beginning with the fourth absence, each additional absence from class lowers your final course grade by one full letter grade. In the event that you need to be absent on the day of an activity or assignment due date, you must contact me as soon as possible and make alternative arrangements to submit your work in accordance with any relevant deadlines. Should unforeseen, exceptional occurrences and/or problems arise, you should contact me as soon as possible.

**Academic Misconduct:** Students should take the necessary steps to avoid the appearance of academic misconduct during exams and within submitted written assignments. All students are responsible for conducting themselves in accordance with the Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Handbook of Community Standards. In the event that plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct occur, the Dean for the student(s) involved will be notified and disciplinary action will be requested. Please feel free to come see me and/or the Center for Teaching if you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct.

**Assignments:** Due dates for the writing assignments are firm. Your assignments must be stapled, typed, and double-spaced with one inch margins and 10-12 font. Please also include a cover/title page. Emailed assignments and assignments turned in on computer disk will not be accepted under any circumstances. Assignments turned in late will be penalized significantly: **2/3s** of a letter grade are subtracted for each day (day, not class) an assignment is late. **Assignments that are not submitted in class on the due date are considered to be late and will have late penalties assessed accordingly.** *Please be sure to save back-up files of all your work on a computer disk, just in case an assignment gets misplaced.*

**Exam Make-Ups:** Exam dates are firm. If you miss an exam, you can make it up only if you contact me before the time of the exam *and* provide a legitimate excuse supported by written documentation.

**Incompletes:** Incompletes will only be considered in instances of extraordinary emergencies that can be verified by legitimate forms of official documentation.

## **Sociology 241: Class/Reading Schedule, Fall 2006**

*(Classes are structured based on the assumption that  
you have done the reading before each session)*

SNAS = Sociology of North American Sport

CISS = Contemporary Issues in Sociology of Sport

FF = Fair and Foul: Beyond the Myths and Paradoxes of Sport

### **Week 1**

**AUGUST 28 - MONDAY: 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the Semester – Orientation to the Course**

**AUGUST 30 - WEDNESDAY: Introduction to the Sociology of Sport. SNAS - Ch. 1  
The Sociological Analysis of Sport; FF – Ch. 1 The Duality of Sport**

**SEPTEMBER 1 - FRIDAY: The Rise of Sport. SNAS - Ch. 2 Social and Cultural Sources of the  
Rise of Sport in North America; CISS - Ch. 1 Physical Education, Sociology, and Sociology of Sport:  
Points of Intersection**

### **Week 2**

**SEPTEMBER 4 - MONDAY: Sport and Values. SNAS - Ch. 3 Sport and Societal Values;  
FF – Ch. 6 Sport is Expressive, Sport is Controlled**

**SEPTEMBER 6 - WEDNESDAY: FF – Ch. 2 Sport Unites, Sport Divides; FF – Ch. 3 Names, Logos,  
Mascots, and Flags: The Contradictory Uses of Sports Symbols**

**SEPTEMBER 8 - FRIDAY: Children and Sport. SNAS - Ch. 4 Children and Sport;  
CISS - Ch. 5 Backyard Versus Little League Baseball: Some Observations on the Impoverishment of  
Children's games in Contemporary America**

### Week 3

**SEPTEMBER 11 - MONDAY:** CISS - Ch. 6 Learning Life's Lessons in Tee Ball: The Reinforcement of Gender and Status in Kindergarten Sport; CISS - Ch. 7 Action Research in Youth Soccer: Assessing the Acceptability of an Alternative Program

**SEPTEMBER 13 - WEDNESDAY:** Sport at the High School Level. SNAS - Ch. 5 Interscholastic Sport; CISS - Ch. 8 Participation in High School Competitive Sports: A Subversion of School Mission or Contribution to Academic Goals?

**SEPTEMBER 15 - FRIDAY:** CISS - Ch. 9 Athletic Participation and Sexual Behavior in Adolescents: The Different Worlds of Boys and Girls; CISS - Ch. 10 Student Council, Volunteering, Basketball, or Marching Band: What Kind of Extracurricular Involvement Matters?



### Week 4

**SEPTEMBER 18 - MONDAY:** Sport at the College Level. SNAS - Ch. 6 Intercollegiate Sport FF – Ch. 8 The Contradictions of Big-Time College Sports

**SEPTEMBER 20 - WEDNESDAY:** CISS - Ch. 11 College Sports Inc.: The Athletic Department vs. the University; CISS - Ch. 12 Sport Participation and Women's Personal Empowerment: Experiences of the College Athlete; CISS - Ch. 13 The College Life Experiences of African American Women Athletes

**SEPTEMBER 22 - FRIDAY:** Deviance in Sport. SNAS - Ch.7 Social Problems and North American Sport: Violence, Substance Abuse, Eating Disorders, and Gambling; FF – Ch. 4 Sport is Fair, Sport is Foul; \*\*\***Sport Autobiography Due Today**

### Week 5

**SEPTEMBER 25 - MONDAY:** CISS - Ch. 26 Positive Deviance Among Athletes: The Implications of Overconformity to the Sport Ethic; CISS - Ch. 27 Interpretations and Explanations of Deviance Among College Athletes: A Case Study; CISS - Ch. 28 Gender, Sport, and Aggressive Behavior Outside Sport

**SEPTEMBER 27 - WEDNESDAY:** Sport and Religion. SNAS - Ch. 8 Sport and Religion

**SEPTEMBER 29 - FRIDAY:** Sport and Politics. SNAS - Ch. 9 Sport and Politics

## Week 6

**OCTOBER 2 - MONDAY:** **Sport and the Economy.** SNAS - Ch. 10 Sport and the Economy  
FF – Ch. 10 Professional Sports Franchises: Public Teams, Private Business; Begin reading *High Stakes* (p. vii-xii, 1-27).

**OCTOBER 4 - WEDNESDAY:** Continue reading *High Stakes* (p. 28-78).

**OCTOBER 6 - FRIDAY:** Finish reading *High Stakes* (p. 79-133).

## Week 7

**OCTOBER 9 - MONDAY:** \*\*\* No Class Today\*\*\* – Fall Recess.

**OCTOBER 11 - WEDNESDAY:** **Media and Sport.** SNAS - Ch. 11 Sport and the Mass Media  
CISS - Ch. 23 The Gender of Audience Building: Televised Coverage of Women's and Men's NCAA Basketball; \*\*\**Scavenger Hunt Items Due Today*

**OCTOBER 13 - FRIDAY:** CISS - Ch. 24 Speed, Aggression, Strength, and Tactical Naivete: The Portrayal of the Black Soccer Player on Television; CISS - Ch. 25 Reading Nancy Lopez: Decoding Representations of Race, Class, and Sexuality

## Week 8

**OCTOBER 16 - MONDAY:** **Sport and Stratification.** SNAS - Ch. 12 Sport, Social Stratification, and Social Mobility; FF – Ch. 7 Myth: Sports are Played on a Level Playing Field

**OCTOBER 18 - WEDNESDAY:** CISS - Ch. 2 The Great American Football Ritual: Reproducing Race, Class, and Gender Inequality; FF – Ch. 9 The Path of Success? Myth and Reality

**OCTOBER 20 - FRIDAY:** CISS - Ch. 3 Sports Ideology, Attitudes Toward Women, and Antihomosexual Attitudes; CISS - Ch. 4 Disqualifying the Official: An Exploration of Social Resistance Through the Subculture of Skateboarding



## Week 9

**OCTOBER 23 - MONDAY:** **Race, Ethnicity, and Sport.** SNAS - Ch. 13 Racial-Ethnic Minorities and Sport; CISS - Ch. 14 The Stacking of Latinos in Major League Baseball: A Forgotten Minority?

**OCTOBER 25 - WEDNESDAY:** CISS - Ch. 15 Hail to the Redskins? Public Reactions to a Racially Insensitive Team name; CISS - Ch. 16 Blacks As Key Functionaries: A Study of Racial Stratification in Professional Sport;

**OCTOBER 27 - FRIDAY:** Begin “*Doing Sociology*” presentations

## Week 10

**OCTOBER 30 - MONDAY:** Complete “*Doing Sociology*” presentations; \*\*\****Doing Sociology*** Assignments Due Today

**NOVEMBER 1 - WEDNESDAY:** \*\*\***Video Today**\*\*\* Unfortunately, I will be out of town today and Friday to give a presentation at the American Society of Criminology conference. I have made arrangements to have a video shown in today’s class. Please prepare for Week 11 by reading *Taking the Field*.

**NOVEMBER 3 - FRIDAY:** \*\*\***No Class Today**\*\*\* – **ASC Conference.** Today’s class is canceled because I am out of town at the ASC Conference. I sincerely apologize for having to cancel class. Please continue to prepare for Week 11 by reading *Taking the Field*.

## Week 11

**NOVEMBER 6 - MONDAY:** **Gender and Sport.** *Taking the Field* (p. ix-xxii, 1-166).

**NOVEMBER 8 - WEDNESDAY:** SNAS - Ch. 14 Gender in North American Sport: Continuity and Change; CISS - Ch. 20 Snowboarding: The Construction of Gender in an Emerging Sport

**NOVEMBER 10 - FRIDAY:** CISS - Ch. 21 Tender Machos: Masculine Contrasts in the Mexican Baseball League; CISS - Ch. 22 “It’s Part of the Game”: Physicality and the Production of Gender in Women’s Hockey



## Week 12

**NOVEMBER 13 - MONDAY:** **Sport and the Body.** CISS - Ch. 17 Machines, Missiles, and Men: Images of the Male Body on ABC's Monday Night Football; FF – Ch. 5 Sport is Healthy, Sport is Destructive

**NOVEMBER 15 - WEDNESDAY:** CISS - Ch. 18 Firm but Shapely, Fit but Sexy, Strong but Thin: The Postmodern Aerobicizing Female Bodies; CISS - Ch. 19 The Politics of the Body and the Body Politic: Magic Johnson and the Ideology of AIDS

**NOVEMBER 17 - FRIDAY:** **Sport Subcultures.** CISS - Ch. 29 The Construction and Confirmation of Identity in Sport Subcultures; CISS - Ch. 30 Pumping Irony: Crisis and Contradiction in Bodybuilding

## Week 13

**NOVEMBER 20 - MONDAY:** CISS - Ch. 31 The Changing Gender Order in Sport? The Case of Windsurfing Subcultures

**NOVEMBER 22 - WEDNESDAY:** \*\*\* No Class Today\*\*\* – Thanksgiving Recess.



**NOVEMBER 24 - FRIDAY:** \*\*\* No Class Today\*\*\* – Thanksgiving Recess.

## Week 14

**NOVEMBER 27 - MONDAY:** **Sport and Globalization.** CISS - Ch. 32 Sport, World Economy, Global Culture, and New Social Movements; CISS - Ch. 33 Sport and Culture as Contested Terrain: Americanization in the Caribbean; CISS - Ch. 34 Between and Beyond the Global and the Local: American Popular Sporting Culture in New Zealand

**NOVEMBER 29 - WEDNESDAY:** FF – Ch. 11 The Globalization of Sport; Begin reading *Inside the Olympic Industry* (p. ix-xvi, 1-40).

**DECEMBER 1 - FRIDAY:** Continue reading *Inside the Olympic Industry* (p. 41-107).



## Week 15

**DECEMBER 4 - MONDAY:** Complete reading *Inside the Olympic Industry* (p. 108-195).

**DECEMBER 6 - WEDNESDAY:** **Current Trends in Sport.** SNAS - Ch. 15 Contemporary Trends and the Future of Sport in North America; FF – Ch. 12 The Challenge: Changing Sport

**DECEMBER 8 - FRIDAY:** **\*\*\* Last Day of Class\*\*\*** **\*\*\*Poster Session Day; \*\*\*Topic of Interest Paper Due Today**

## Week 16

**DECEMBER 11 - MONDAY:** **\*\*\* Reading Period\*\*\***

**DECEMBER 12 - TUESDAY:** **\*\*\*Take Home Final Exam Questions Available\*\*\***

**DECEMBER 14 - THURSDAY:** **\*\*\*Take Home Final Exam Due Between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. Today\*\*\***

❖ Please have a safe and happy holiday break!

### **Important Dates:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ➤ September 22 <sup>nd</sup>                  | Sport Autobiography Due                               |
| ➤ October 9 <sup>th</sup>                     | No Class - Fall Recess                                |
| ➤ October 11 <sup>th</sup>                    | Scavenger Hunt Items Due                              |
| ➤ October 27 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> | "Doing Sociology" Presentations                       |
| ➤ October 30 <sup>th</sup>                    | "Doing Sociology" Assignments Due                     |
| ➤ November 3 <sup>rd</sup>                    | No Class – American Society of Criminology Conference |
| ➤ November 22 <sup>nd</sup>                   | No Class - Thanksgiving Recess                        |
| ➤ November 24 <sup>th</sup>                   | No Class - Thanksgiving Recess                        |
| ➤ December 8 <sup>th</sup>                    | Poster Session Day & Topic of Interest Paper Due      |
| ➤ December 14 <sup>th</sup>                   | Take-Home Final Due                                   |
| ➤ Your Artifact Presentation Dates: 1) _____  |   |
| 2) _____                                      |   |
| 3) _____                                      |   |

## Resources for Students

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- *Visit these links for more information about plagiarism and citing sources:*

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/about/when.html>

[http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/cite/works\\_cited.htm](http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/cite/works_cited.htm)

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Style.html>

<http://olc2.wright.edu/help/cite-sources>

- *Visit the American Sociological Association's link for more information about sociology (including graduate programs):*

<http://www.asanet.org>

- *Visit this link for a collection of resources pertaining to sociology, criminology, career options, graduate study, and other things that your instructor decided to put on his OSU homepage:*

<http://www.sociology.ohio-state.edu/jes/>

- *Important phone numbers:*

Emergencies (Fire, Ambulance, Police/Security: 911

Rape and Abuse Crisis Hotline (24 hours/7 days) (800) 247-7273 or (315) 781-1093

### **HWS Numbers: (315) 781 -**

Campus Safety: 3333

Center for Teaching and Learning: 3351

Library Reference Desk: 3552

Information Technology Help Desk 4357

Alcohol and Drug Counseling 3478

Counseling Center 3600

William Smith Dean's Office 3467

Hobart Dean's Office 330