

SPM 3012: SOCIAL ISSUES IN SPORT

Department of Sport Management
Fall 2021 Course Syllabus

Section: Z1CW (**this section DOES NOT fulfill a UF words requirement*)

Credits: 3

Class Days: MWF 10:40 am – 11:30 am

Meeting Room: FLG 245

Instructor: Dr. Christine Wegner

Email: christinewegner@ufl.edu

Office: FLG 300B

Office Hours: Thursday, 10am-12pm; by appt.

Required Text

Coakley, J. J. (2020). *Sport in Society: Issues and Controversies* (13th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw- Hill Education.

Course Description

This course provides an examination of the intersection of sport and society: implications of class, race, and gender-based social issues in youth, college, and professional sport structures.

Purpose of the Course

Social Issues in Sport is designed to acquaint students with the principles and applications of social issues within the sport industry. The course is grounded in sociological research and requires critical thinking to investigate the links between many of the major issues facing sport organizations today. Specifically, we will assess the intersection of race and sports, gender and sports, class and sports, media and sports, as well as the issues plaguing youth, college, and professional sports in American society.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Think critically and articulate how sports impact society as well as how society impacts sports
- Articulate and explain the major sociological issues associated with gender, social class, race, and media, in sports
- Describe the business of youth, college, and professional sports from a sociological perspective
- Describe how competition and the professional commercial model of sport have an

impact on the youth and college sport system

- Gain an enlightened understanding of the relationship between society and sports
- Provide clear solutions that sport leaders can use to improve many issues challenging sports in contemporary society
- Course Policies

Assignment Submissions and Exam Details and Deadlines:

- All written submissions be submitted through Canvas prior to the assigned deadline. All Reading Quizzes and exams should be completed prior the assigned deadline. Written assignments, Reading Quizzes, and exams will be available on Canvas during a specified window in which assignments can be viewed and submitted, and quizzes and exams can be taken.
- A grading rubric for all written assignments is available on the respective assignment pages in Canvas. Written assignments are expected reflect college-level writing: proper grammar and punctuation, correct spelling, and coherently organized sentences and paragraphs. Module Synthesis Papers should be double spaced, and all citations (required) should follow APA formatting. All written assignments will be screened for plagiarism through the “Turn-it-in” plagiarism software.

Attendance and Make Up Policy:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- Attendance: Students are graded on participation, for which attendance is necessary. If an excused absence is necessary, the student should contact me by email PRIOR to missing class.
- Make Up Work: If submission/exam taking arrangements are not made prior to the assignment/exam deadline, late work will be accepted for 75% credit within one (1) day late, and 50% credit within two (2) days late. No late work will be accepted after two (2) days past the due date. Individual circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis if communicated with me.

Professionalism:

- Students are expected to engage in the class lectures and discussions. Thus, required readings should be completed prior to the class period in which they will be covered.
- Students are expected to respect the opinions and experiences of class members. Disruptive or disrespectful students will be asked to leave the class if their behavior is detrimental to the class atmosphere. If a student continues to be disruptive, the student will be reported to the University.
- Phones and laptops are welcomed in class, as researching information during class periods will be encouraged. However, during in-class time, devices should only be used for the purposes of engaging in lectures or discussions. Students are expected to refrain from recreational browsing, or shopping, or social media, or anything not related to class during class periods. Failure to engage in lectures and discussions will affect the participation grade.
- All correspondence with me should be through email. Please don't expect that I will

remember details of a conversation that occurs before, during, or after class. If you need to discuss assignments, exams, absences, or anything that requires arranging, those arrangements must be communicated through email.

Respect for Diversity

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Important note: Given that some of the material discussed in class may be sensitive or difficult, it is imperative that there be an atmosphere of trust and safety in the classroom. I will attempt to foster an environment in which each class member is able to hear and respect each other. It is critical that each class member show respect for all worldviews expressed in class. It is expected that some of the material in this course may evoke strong emotions, please be respectful of others' emotions and be mindful of your own. Please let me know if something said or done in the classroom, by either myself or other students, is particularly troubling or causes discomfort or offense. While our intention may not be to cause discomfort or offense, the impact of what happens throughout the course is not to be ignored and is something that I consider to be very important and deserving of attention. If and when this occurs, there are several ways to alleviate some of the discomfort or hurt you may experience:

1. Discuss the situation privately with me. I am always open to listening to students' experiences, and want to work with students to find acceptable ways to process and address the issue.
2. Discuss the situation with the class. Chances are there is at least one other student in the class who had a similar response to the material. Discussion enhances the ability for all class participants to have a fuller understanding of context and impact of course material and class discussions.
3. Notify me of the issue through another source such as your academic advisor, a trusted faculty member, or a peer. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable discussing the issue directly with me, I encourage you to seek out another, more comfortable avenue to address the issue.

Course Format

This course is comprised of 8 modules consisting of lecture, discussion, readings, and learning assessments. Lectures and discussions will take place during class meeting periods. Module content and course information is available on the course E-Learning (Canvas) site. Student learning is assessed on content from in-class lectures, in-class discussions, and module readings and media reports posted on the Canvas site.

Module Structure:

Each module consists of two in-class segments. The first segment of each module consists of an introduction to the topic, lecture, and discussion of the course readings (content). The Reading Quiz (with a few exceptions) is due in the first segment of the modules. The second segment of each module is an examination of the topic through the lens of current media: applying what was learned from the module content to evaluating the manner in which the issues are presented in the media, and how the topic manifests in current society/culture. The Module Synthesis Paper is due in the second segment of the module. See the course outline (included at the end of this syllabus) for specific assignment due dates by module.

Module Readings and Videos:

Module readings and videos are listed in the Course Outline (at the end of this syllabus) and on each module page in Canvas. For each module, the readings and videos listed are required unless otherwise noted. Required readings and videos (other than chapters in the course text) are linked to the corresponding module page in Canvas. Readings listed for segment one of each module comprise the primary course content; readings and videos for segment two provide an application of media to the module topic. Throughout the semester, *additional readings or videos not appearing in the course outline may be added as required module content.*

- *Reading Quizzes:* A quiz for each module is administered at the end of segment one and only covers the module readings (does **not** cover the media presentations in segment two of the modules). Each Reading Quiz consists of 10 questions that are multiple choice, true/false, or short-answer. The Reading Quizzes are administered through Canvas.
- *Module Synthesis Papers:* The Module Synthesis Paper assignment is a critical evaluation and application of the module readings, in-class discussions, and media presentations. The Module Synthesis Paper is a response (or responses) to a prompt (or prompts) on the module topic or a specific issue presented in the module. The assignment grade is based on the student's ability to a) identify critical elements of the module that are relevant to the prompt, b) leverage facts and figures (information) from the module to support the response, c) synthesize elements of the module readings, in-class discussions, and media presentations to effectively respond to the prompt(s), and d) effectively communicate the response. See the Module Synthesis Paper assignment page on Canvas for specific requirements and instructions to submit the assignment.
- *Discussion Groups:* Discussion Groups, or "Pods" will meet every Friday in lieu of Class (except for Week 1). Each week, groups will receive a prompt to discuss during their

Discussion Groups. The first week of class, each assigned group will decide for itself how they will meet (outside, inside, via Zoom), when, and what the group expectations will be. At the mid-point and end of semester, peers within the group will assess whether each group member is meeting the group expectations. Each Monday, groups will be randomly asked to share their discussion from the previous week's pod.

Cumulative Course Assessments:

Mid-term Exam: The mid-term exam covers modules 1 through 4. The mid-term consists of short-answer/short essay questions. Responses are graded based on a) the depth of analysis of the issue(s) presented in the module, and b) critical thinking regarding how the issue(s) affect or are affected by cultural/societal influences. Specific facts and figures are not required to support responses, but responses should demonstrate an understanding of the interaction between sport and society in regard to the specific topic. The mid-term exam is administered through Canvas.

Final Exam: The final exam is in the same format, with the same requirements, as the mid-term exam. The final exam is also administered through Canvas.

Class Participation: Class participation is critical to fulfilling student learning objectives. Participation does not only include answering questions and speaking in class discussions, it includes engaging in active listening and learning; class participation will be graded based on these requirements. Participation cannot occur if the student doesn't engage during the class period, and if the student doesn't attend class.

Grading and Point Distribution

Module Reading Quizzes (10 points each X 5 Modules)	50 points
Module Synthesis Papers (30 points X 6 Modules)	180 points
Discussion Groups	60 points
Mid Term Exam	40 points
Final Exam	40 points
Participation	40 points
Total Possible Points	410 points

All grades will be posted on Canvas, with the final grade assigned per the following grading scale:

A	=	93-100%
A-	=	90 – 92.9%
B+	=	87-89.9%
B	=	83-86.9%
B-	=	80 – 82.9%
C+	=	77-79.9%
C	=	73-76.9%
C-	=	70 – 72.9%
D+	=	67-69.9%
D	=	60-66.9%
E	=	59.9 or lower

University Policies

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

You Matter, We Care:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime or weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392- 1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including,

but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 911.

Honor Code Policy

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

The following pledge will be either required or implied on all work:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment”

It is the duty of the student to abide by all rules set forth in the UF Undergraduate Catalog. Students are responsible for reporting any circumstances, which may facilitate academic dishonesty.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

“The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards, and we encourage students to read the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040), so they are aware of our standards. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action. The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty’s policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium.”

*Students are encouraged to review and discuss unit content with other students but are not permitted to collaborate with other students on any written submission or quiz in this course.

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

Canvas Help: For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning @ UF, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> or helpdesk@ufl.edu

Other resources are available at: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- [Counseling and Wellness resources](#)
- [Disability resources](#)
- [Resources for handling student concerns and complaints](#)
- [Library Help Desk support](#)

Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Policy on Course Syllabi 3 *UF, Academic Affairs, August 5th, 2021* Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

SPM3012: Sport and Social Issues Course Outline

Module 1		Introduction to Sport and Society
Week 1	Aug 23-27	<p><i>Review of syllabus and course expectations</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley Chapter 1
Week 2	Aug 30-Sept 3	<p><i>What sport is, what it means, and how it is framed through the media</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley Chapters 3, 11 (pp. 336-352), and 12 • Rowe: Assessing the Sociology of Sport <p>Due:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friday: Synthesis Paper 2. Friday: Reading Quiz
Module 2		Class in Sport
Week 3	Sept 7-10	<p>NO CLASS MONDAY, SEPT 6TH</p> <p><i>Sport and social class transcendence, social mobility, and limitations by social class</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley Chapter 9 • Eitzen Chapter 11: Sports as a Path to Success <p>Due:</p> <p>Friday: Quiz</p>
Week 4	Sept 13-17	<p><i>Current events/media discussion</i></p> <p>Readings/video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TED Talk: Are Athletes Really Getting Faster, Better, Stronger? • ESPN: How a House Became a Home for Deshaun Watson <p>Due:</p> <p>Friday: Synthesis Paper</p>
Module 3		Race in Sport
Week 5	Sept 20-24	<p><i>Race and ethnicity: perceptions, treatment, and opportunities in sport</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley Chapter 8 • Cunningham: Understanding the under-representation of African American coaches: A multilevel perspective • Enck-Wanzer: All's Fair in Love and Sport: Black Masculinity and Domestic Violence in the News

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spaaij, Farquharson, & Fairbanks: Sport and Social Inequities (pp. 402-404; Race segment) <p><u>Due:</u> Friday: Reading Quiz</p>
Week 6	Sept 27- Oct 1	<p><i>Current events/media discussion</i></p> <p><u>Readings/video:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the Harm ESPN: Clemson QB Deshaun Watson says dual-threat label stems from race Howard Bryant: "The Heritage" and the Politics of Race, Sports, and Patriotism <p><u>Due:</u> Friday: Synthesis Paper</p>
Module 4	Gender, Sexuality, and Identity in Sport	
Week 7	Oct 4-8	<p>NO CLASS FRIDAY, OCT 8</p> <p><i>Women and LGBTQ: perceptions, treatment, and opportunities in sport</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coakley Chapter 7 Shaw & Frisby: Can Gender Equity be More Equitable? (pp. 483-498; through Phase II) Cunningham & Sagas: Gender and Sex Diversity in Sport Organizations Spaaij, Farquharson, & Fairbanks: Sport and Social Inequities (pp. 400-402; Intro through Gender) <p><u>Due:</u> Thursday: Reading Quiz</p>
Week 8	Oct 11-15	<p><i>Current events/media discussion</i></p> <p><u>Readings/video:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYT: Sex, Sport, and Why Track and Field's New Rules on Intersex Athletes Are Essential NWLC: Debunking the Myths About Title IX and Athletics ESPN Nine for IX: Branded <p><u>Due:</u> Friday: Synthesis Paper Friday: Midterm Exam (open for 24 hours on Canvas)</p>
	Oct 15	Mid-term (no discussion groups this week)
Module 5	Youth Sport	

Week 9	Oct 18-22	<p><i>Youth sport structures and the treatment of youth athletes</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley Chapter 4 • Messner: Gender Ideologies, Youth Sports, and the Production of Soft Essentialism • Sagas: Aspen Institute Research Brief <p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Friday: Reading Quiz</p>
Week 10	Oct 25-29	<p><i>Current events/media discussion</i></p> <p><u>Readings/video:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NetFlix: At All Costs <p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Friday: Synthesis Paper</p>
Module 6	College Sport	
Week 11	Nov 1-5	<p><i>College sport structures and the treatment of college athletes</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley Chapter 14 • Gayles & Blanchard: Playing Outside the Lines: Contemporary Legal Issues in College Sports • Benford: The College Sports Reform Movement: Reframing the "Edutainment" Industry
Week 12	Nov 8-12	<p><i>Current events/media discussion</i></p> <p><u>Readings/video:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPN: Baylor faces accusations of ignoring sex assault victims • Black Female Coaches: A Players' Tribune Roundtable <p><u>Due:</u></p> <p>Friday: Synthesis Paper</p>
Module 7	Professional Sport	
Week 13	Nov 15-19	<p><i>Business of professional sport and the treatment of professional athletes</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coakley Chapter 11 (pp. 352-366; the "Organization of Professional Sports" through "Legal Status") • Coakley Chapter 13 (pp. 419-433; through "Sports and Global Political Processes")

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eitzen Chapter 12: Professional Sport Franchises <p>Due: 1. Wednesday: Reading Questions</p>
Week 14	Nov 22-26	<p>NO CLASS WEDNESDAY, NOV 24 NO CLASS FRIDAY, NOV 26</p> <p><i>Current events/media discussion</i></p> <p>Readings/video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPR: Laura Ingraham Told LeBron James To Shut Up And Dribble: He Went To The Hoop Holstein et al: All that Dough
Module 8	The Future of Sport	
Week 14	Nov 29- Dec 3	<p><i>Change in sport, reforming sport, and Sport for Development</i></p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coakley Chapter 16 Sanders: An own goal in sport for development: Time to change the playing field <p><i>Current events/media discussion</i></p> <p>Readings/video:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knight Commission: What D-I Leaders Think: New Survey Findings about Reform <p>Due: Friday: Synthesis Paper</p>
Final	Dec 6-8	Online

**The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as necessary.

** Copyright Statement:

The materials used in this course are copyrighted. The content presented is the property of UF, may not be duplicated in any format without permission from the College of Health and Human Performance and UF, and may not be used for any commercial purposes. Content includes, but is not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, in-class materials, and review sheets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless permission is expressly granted. Students violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action under the UF Conduct Code.