

**Sport Sociology**  
**SPM 5016, Fall 2024**  
**Dr. Molly Harry**

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the sociology of sport. Sociology is “the study of the social worlds that people create, maintain, and change throughout their relationships with each other” (Coakley, 2021, p. 4). Sports are the vehicle through which we will examine these social worlds and relationships. In this course, students will raise critical questions about sports at all levels—youth, club, recreational, college, and professional—and explore the relationship between sports, culture, and society. Additionally, students will expand their knowledge on sociological research and theory in sport settings. RESM 5813 combines presentations, small and large group discussions, reflection essays, and other activities to assist students in studying the sociology of sport. The course schedule is posted to Canvas on the Modules tab; however, this is subject to change based on the instructor.

**Instructor Information**

Molly Harry, Ph.D.

FLG 250C

[Mharry3@ufl.edu](mailto:Mharry3@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am or by appointment. Please stop by! I’m here to help and support YOU!!

**Text & Reading Material**

- Coakley, J. (2021). *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*. 13th Edition. McGraw Hill.
  - Students will find it beneficial to have access to the text during class.
- **Additional readings and materials are posted to Canvas**

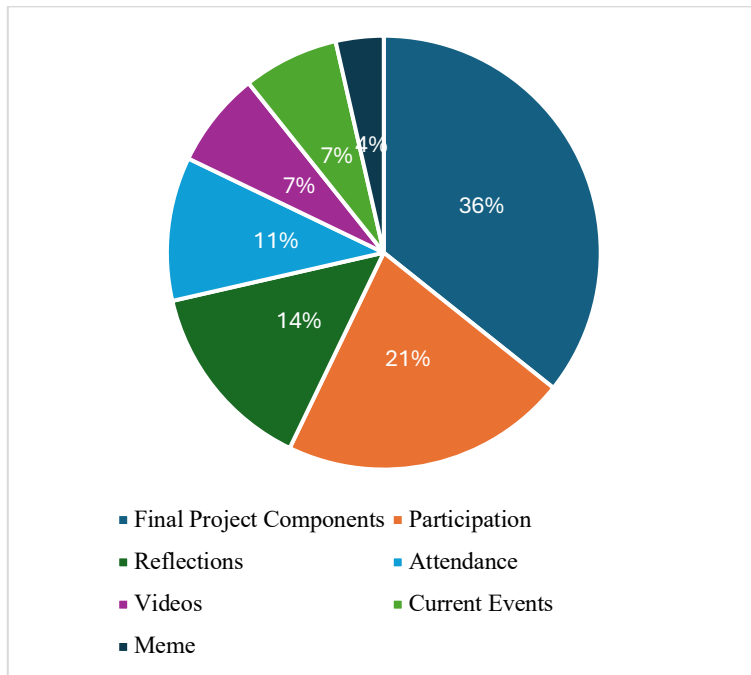
**Grading Policy**

This course follows the University of Florida’s grading policy. See current UF Grading Policies for further details.

A	= 100-93	C(S)	= 76.99-73
A-	= 92.99-90	C-(U)	= 72.99-70
B+	= 89.99-87	D+	= 69.99-67
B	= 86.99-83	D	= 66.99-63
B-	= 82.99-80	D-	= 62.99-60
C+	= 79.99-77	E	= 59.99-0

Final grades will **NOT** be rounded up. The only reason to dispute a grade is if you think there is a mistake, I’m human, so that is possible. However, if students email inquiring about grade change (round up) or extra credit I will not respond and I will delete the email. In asking for a grade change, you have indicated: (a) You don’t/haven’t read my communications or syllabus and (b) rules do not apply to you. Students will receive the grades **EARNED**.

## Grade Distribution



### Course Assignment Breakdown: 700 Points

Final Project Components: 250 points/36%

Participation: 150 points/21%

Reflections: 100 points/14%

Attendance: 75 points/11%

Videos: 50 points/7%

Current Events: 50 points/7%

Meme: 25 points/4%

## Assignments

SPM 5016 offers a variety of assignments to ensure students' success. The course is out of 700 total points. See below and the Canvas page for more information. Within the confines of this class all students are expected to abide by the UF Honor Code, which you can read here:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>.

### Meme (25 points)

At the conclusion of the course, students will upload a self-created meme that will be shared during the last class. This can be about subject matter or something funny that came up in class. Get creative!

### Current Events (50 points)

Current event days are designed for students in their pre-assigned groups (as with the reflections) to bring in a current event (within the last year) that relates to that week's topic(s) and/or readings. Students will describe and contextualize their current event for the class and ask the class 1-2 questions/lead a discussion about the current event. See Canvas for more specifics.

### Videos (50 points)

There will be TWO 90 second maximum videos assigned throughout the semester. These are designed to allow students to express their thoughts in an avenue other than writing.

### **Reflections (100 points)**

There will be 2 written reflection papers due to Canvas. Format includes 1-2 pages double-spaced with 1-inch margins; name, date, and reflection question at the top. Students should follow 7th edition APA formatting for references and citations with the reference list at the end of the paper. It is required that students include at least 2 course readings or 1 course reading and 1 outside reading in their reflections. Late papers will not be accepted and will be counted as a zero. Reflections should include the application of concepts from course readings, lectures, and/or class discussions. The objective of reflections is to apply readings to one's own experiences, tell the audience something new, critique the literature/assigned readings, or offer another form of engagement with the material. While students may want to summarize to provide context about the topics being discussed in the reflection, the whole essay is not a summary. Assignment must be uploaded as a word document. Additionally, at the beginning of the semester, students will be split into groups for the reflections. While there are four total reflections this semester, students in each of the assigned groups will only complete two reflections. The reflections are individual assignments. See Canvas for more specifics.

### **Final Project (250 points)**

Students will examine the intersection of sports, social media, and sociology to understand the impact of content and communication on sports culture, values, norms, and ideologies. Students will analyze how a sports organization uses social media to engage with fans/followers and convey particular messages about social issues. First, students will select a sport organization of their interest (i.e., NCAA, USA Track and Field, IOC, Women's Sports Foundation, an athletic department, parks and recreation office, etc.). Second, students will select which social media platform they wish to engage with (i.e., Facebook, Instagram, X, etc.). Third, students will complete a content analysis of the organization's social media platform. There will be a mid-project check in worth 25 points and the remainder of the project/presentation is worth 225 points. The professor will be available to meet via Zoom or in person to discuss the project and offer feedback and guidance throughout the semester. See Canvas for more specifics.

### **Participation (150 points)**

Participation enhances the learning environment for everyone in the class and is required to be successful. You should be prepared to discuss the readings and materials for each session. The **quality (not just quantity)** of students' insightful comments will be evaluated and recorded after each class. Students should demonstrate knowledge and thoughtful analysis of the readings/materials along with the ability to express ideas clearly and effectively. Similarly, students are encouraged to ask questions throughout the class. If you do not plan to participate, this course might not be the right fit for you.

Most importantly, this class aims to foster an inclusive and respectful environment. While students (and the professor) may pose differing opinions or pose challenging/critical questions or ideas on a variety of topics/social issues discussed throughout the semester, rude, demeaning, or discriminatory comments will not be tolerated (they will result in a zero for participation on that day and may warrant further action). **Additionally, students should refrain from doing work for other courses, watching film, texting, scrolling through social media, etc.** All attention should be focused on this class and the instructor reserves the right to remove points if it appears the student (or class as a whole) is not engaged in SPM 5016. If there are personal circumstances influencing your ability to participate, that is more than okay, but students should communicate this to the professor. **Each day is worth 6 points for a total of 75 points.**

An unexcused absence will be a 0 for that day and an excused absence will receive 3 points on that day (unless you invoke the “Oh S\*&\$ clause described below). Unexcused absences include working athletics events that are not for an assistantship position, sorority/fraternity events, travel unrelated to school/athletics participation, non-emergency doctors’ visits, and non-emergency trips to see family. I reserve the right to mark an absence as excused/unexcused and students with questions should reach out before their potential absence.

- **“Oh S\*&\$” Clause:** I’m aware that it is impossible to consider all the possible circumstances that may prevent you from attending this course and/or the timely submission of your assignments. Therefore, you may choose to invoke this clause for one class attendance/participation (you will receive full attendance/participation points) and one individual assignment (excluding final presentations) and request an extension, no explanation required. Simply contact me before the due date and inform me that you would like to invoke the clause for the assignment and we will negotiate a new due date together.

### **Attendance (75 points)**

Attendance is mandatory for this course and will be tracked throughout the semester. If you take this course, you should plan to attend each class online, except (1) where personal circumstances do not permit you to attend, (2) the class is asynchronous, or (3) inclement weather or university sanctioned off days. You are responsible for all material covered (including readings, lectures, activities, etc.) in the classes for which you are absent regardless of the excused status of the absence. **Each day is worth 3 points.** An unexcused absence will be a 0 for that day and an excused absence will receive 1.5 points on that day (unless you invoke the “Oh S\*&\$ clause described above). Unexcused absences include (but are not limited to): Doctors’ appointments, work or volunteering conflicts, meetings with coaches, meetings with other faculty/students, and more. Being more than 5 minutes late will also be a reduction in attendance points as this is a disruption for the whole class and not conducive to learning.

### **Other University of Florida Policies**

#### **University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) ) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

#### **University Policy on Academic Conduct**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy during, before and after class, in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. I will respond during business hours and do my best to communicate with students collectively and individually in a timely manner. In return, I expect students to engage with the same courtesy.

## Technical Difficulties

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

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

## Health & wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu](http://umatter.ufl.edu) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** Visit [counseling.ufl.edu](http://counseling.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- **Student Health Care Center:** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu](http://shcc.ufl.edu).
- **University Police Department:** Visit [police.ufl.edu](http://police.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- **UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

## Academic & Student Support

- **Career Connections Center:** 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services [career.ufl.edu/](http://career.ufl.edu/).
- **Library Support:** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. [cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask)
- **Teaching Center:** 352-392-2010 General study skills and tutoring: [teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)
- **Writing Studio:** 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers: [writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/)

## Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.