

SPM 3012: Social Issues in Sport

3 Credit Hours / 6,000 Words

Spring 2025

(Fulfills 6,000 words toward the UF writing requirement)

Instructor Information:

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FLG 250E

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Office Hours: in person Tuesdays, 9am-11am, FLG 250E; via Zoom Thursdays 10am-11am

Course Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/526352>

Required Materials / Textbooks

- Eitzen, D.S. (2016). *Fair and foul: Beyond the myths and paradoxes of sport*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Holstein, J.A., Jones, R.S., & Koonce, G.E. (2016). *Is there life after football?: Surviving the NFL*. New York: New York University Press.

*Other readings are posted on the course website.

Course Description

The course examines societal operations, arrangements of power, and practical implications in sport: in history and heritage, youth, college, and professional programs/contexts, and the business of the sport industry.

Purpose of the Course

Sport and Society is designed to position students to evaluate the operations, principles, and practices in the sport industry through the lens of a sport leader. The course examines sociological research that exposes the links between many of the major issues facing sports organizations today. Specifically, the course content will require that students assess the intersection of race and sports, gender and sports, the treatment and behavior of athletes in sport, as well as the major social issues facing youth, college, and professional sports in American society.

Course Objectives

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

- Articulate how sports impacts society as well as how society impacts sports
- Explain the major sociological issues associated with gender, social class, race, and media in sport
- Describe the business of youth, college, and professional sport from a sociological perspective
- Describe how competition and the professionalized, commercial model of sport impact the sport system
- Evaluate the arrangements of power that produce and reproduce the delivery of sport
- Analyze the alignment of the purpose and delivery of sport across the conveyor belt of elite sport
- Provide clear solutions that sport leaders can use to improve issues challenging sports in contemporary society

Course Format

This course is online and all class sessions (including discussion sessions) are delivered through E-Learning @ UF. The course is organized around 5 modules comprised of individual units, with various components made up of the following:

1. Unit Videos and Readings
2. Course Discussion Board (in Yellowdig)
3. Essays

Unit Videos and Readings

Key concepts and issues for the topics in each module are presented through several videos and readings. The unit readings include chapters from the required texts and other readings that are linked on the unit page. The videos presented in each module include short lectures, short documentaries and news reports, or full-length documentary films. The video presentations will provide an overview of the most central ideas and debates associated with specific concepts covered in the readings of the module. The primary purpose of the video presentations is to set the stage for high order thinking of the materials and concepts presented through the course readings. The study guides that accompany the readings and videos should be your primary source for what students should focus on as they move through the units.

Yellowdig Course Discussion Board

The discussion board is used to weave key concepts presented in the videos and readings into an integrated whole to further develop an understanding of the phenomenon in sport. It is also meant to be a space to explore ideas and examples that can be used in the course essays. First

posts to the discussion boards are encouraged by Thursday of each unit, replies are due by Sunday. There is an assigned discussion board for every unit.

Note that discussion board posts do NOT count towards the 6,000 word requirement in this course.

Essay Papers*

These are a series of papers (graded for writing and content) on the topics and key concepts covered in the units. Minimum word counts toward the writing requirement are assigned for each question to guide students when preparing their responses. The instructor (or assigned TA) will evaluate and provide feedback on all of the student's written assignments with respect to grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization. Students are encouraged to visit UF's Writing Studio (www.writing.ufl.edu).

*These papers are the student submissions toward fulfilling the UF 6000 words requirement.

In summary, each unit will include four tasks:

1. **Watch** the assigned videos
2. **Read** the assigned readings
3. **Participate** in the discussion board
 - a. **Post** initial posts to the board
 - b. **Post** your responses to the prompt and **replies** to other students on the discussion board
4. **Prepare and submit** written responses to the Essay prompts/questions (in units where the essay is present)

Essay Sample Rubric*

Criteria	Pts*
Writing: APA Formatting and Citing Double space; cites correctly (e.g., author, year); cites information/evidence as needed	10%
Writing: Composition Provides clear, concise answer to question/prompt; paper is organized into paragraphs; coherent flow of writing (punctuation and language)	40%
Content: Synthesis Demonstrates a synthesis of the information/evidence	10%

Criteria	Pts*
Content: Key Concepts Explains key concepts from the unit using course sources that correspond to the question/prompt	40%
*Total Points vary (100%)	

Grading & Point Distribution

Course Discussion Board	100 pts
Synthesis Papers (X5 papers, 60 pts each)	400 pts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay 1 (1200 words) • Essay 2 (1200 words) • Essay 3 (1200 words) • Essay 4 (1200 words) • Essay 5 (1200 words) 	

Total Possible Points **500 pts**

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	=	70-76.9%
D+	=	67-69.9%
D	=	60-66.9%
E	=	59.9 or lower

Writing Requirement

- The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning.
- Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.
- See current UF Grading Policies for further details:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/) (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>). *“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 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 in this course.

A NOTE ABOUT THE USE OF AI: Artificial intelligence programs such as ChatGPT are everywhere now, and many courses can use these resources to enhance student learning. However, as this course requires students to *independently* write 6,000 words, the use of AI to write essays is prohibited. Using AI to produce essays will result in an honor code violation. Students MAY use AI technology to help edit, grammar check, and citation check their work. Students who have questions about this should reach out to me to discuss.

Course Evaluation Process

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/publicresults/>

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. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

Attendance and Make Up Policy

Requirements for 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>

Getting Help

Student Support

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 352-392-1575.
- **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):** Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- **University Police Department:** 392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies)
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/> .
- **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.
- **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.

Academic Support

- **E-learning Technical Support:** UF HELP Desk - 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>
- **Career Connections Center, Reitz Union:** 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>
- **Library Support:** <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- **Teaching Center, Broward Hall:** 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- **Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall:** 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- **Student Complaints On-Campus:** <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>
- **On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

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, and clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, and exams), field trips, and 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 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.”

Statement of Inclusion

Education is transformative, and open intellectual inquiry is the foundation of a university education and a democratic society. In the spirit of shared humanity and concern for our community and world, the Department of Sport Management faculty celebrate inclusion as central to our mission and affirm our solidarity with those individuals and groups most at risk. In line with our departmental goals, we disavow all racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, classism, ableism, and hate speech or actions that attempt to silence, threaten, and degrade others.

As educators, we affirm that language and texts, films and stories help us to understand the experiences of others whose lives are different from ours. We value critical reasoning, evidence-based arguments, self-reflection, and imagination. Building on these capacities, we hope to inspire empathy, social and environmental justice, and an ethical framework for our actions. We advocate for a diverse campus, community, and nation inclusive of racial minorities, women, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, and people of all religious faiths.

SPM3012: Social Issues in Sport

Course Outline

Module 1		
Orientation and M1 Unit 1: Introduction to Social Issues in Sport		
Week 1	Jan 13-17	<p><u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Complete Orientation Module</p> <p><u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos</p> <p><u>Monday—Friday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board</p> <p><u>Thursday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board</p>
Module 2		
M2 Unit 1: Class in Sport		
Week 2	Jan 21-24	<p><u>Tuesday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos</p> <p><u>Tuesday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board</p> <p><u>Friday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board</p>
Week 3	Jan 27-31	<u>Friday:</u> Submit written responses for Essay 1
M2 Unit 2: Race in Sport		
Week 4	Feb 3-7	<p><u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos</p> <p><u>Monday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board</p> <p><u>Friday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board</p>
Week 5	Feb 10-14	Grading Week
Week 6	Feb 17-21	<u>Friday:</u> Submit written responses for Essay 2
M2 Unit 3: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity in Sport		
Week 7	Feb 24-28	<p><u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos</p> <p><u>Monday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board</p> <p><u>Thursday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board</p>
Week 8	Mar 3-7	<u>Thursday:</u> Submit written responses for Essay 3

Module 3		
M3 Unit 1: Athlete Health and Safety		
Week 9	Mar 10-14	<u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos <u>Monday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board <u>Friday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board
March 17-21: Spring Break (No work assigned and no office hours)		
Module 4		
M4 Unit 1: Youth Sport		
Week 10	Mar 24-28	<u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos <u>Monday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board <u>Friday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board <u>Friday:</u> Submit written responses for Essay 4
M4 Unit 2: College Sport		
Week 11	Mar 31-Apr 4	<u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos <u>Monday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board <u>Thursday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board
M4 Unit 3: Pro Sport		
Week 12	Apr 7-11	<u>Tuesday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos <u>Monday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board <u>Thursday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board
Module 5		
M5 Unit 1: Reforming Sport Unit		
Week 13	Apr 14-18	<u>Monday—Wednesday:</u> Read unit readings and watch unit videos <u>Monday—Thursday:</u> Initial post to course discussion board <u>Thursday—Sunday:</u> Post additional responses to course discussion board
Week 14	Apr 21-23	<u>Wednesday:</u> Submit written responses for Essay 5

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents the tentative plans and objectives for the course. As we go through the semester, plans may need to change to enhance a class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.