

SPM 5016: Sport Sociology

Spring 2025

Dr. Molly Harry

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

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

Course Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Define sport sociology
2. Summarize the major sociological theories and research approaches in sport sociology
3. Evaluate the contribution (or lack thereof) of sport to health/wellbeing
4. Explain the intersection between sport and broader societal issues.

Text & Reading Material

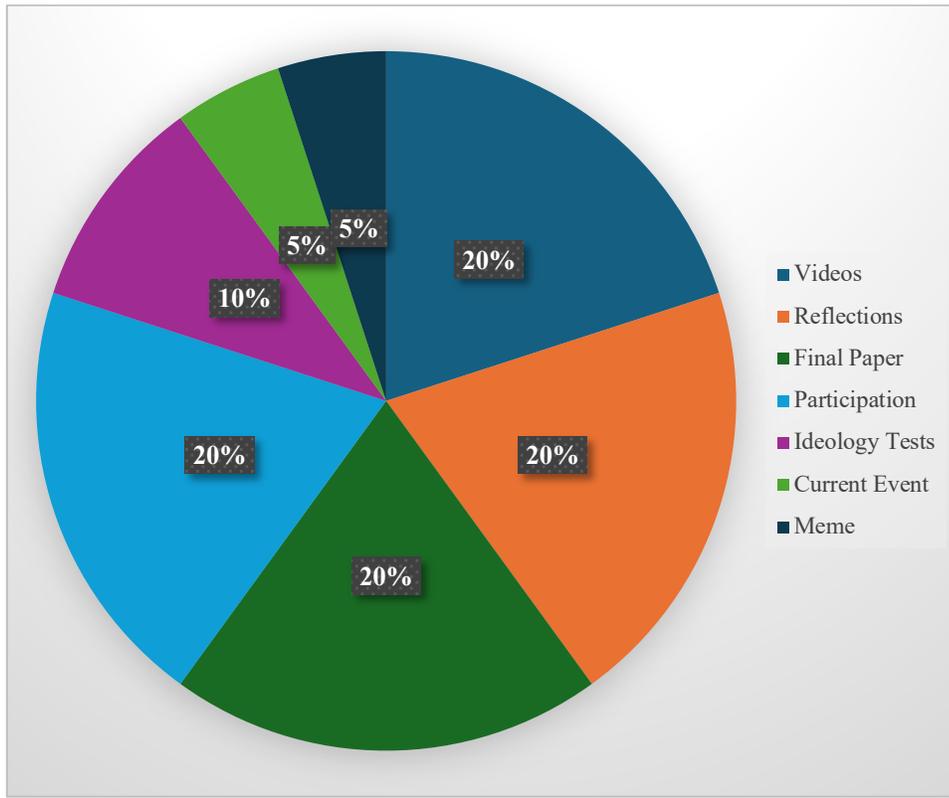
- Coakley, J. (2021). *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*. 13th Edition. McGraw Hill.
 - Students will find it beneficial to have access to the text during class.
- **Additional readings and materials are posted to Canvas**

Grading Policy

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

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

Grade Distribution



Course Assignment Points Breakdown

Videos: 100 points
Reflections: 100 points
Final Paper: 100 points
Participation: 100 points
Ideology Tests: 50 points
Current Event: 25 points
Course Meme: 25 points
Total: 500 points

Assignments

SPM 5016 offers a variety of assignments to ensure students' success. The course is out of 500 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)

To end the semester, 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 Event (25 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 prior weeks' topics 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.

Ideology Tests (50 points)

There are two ideology "tests" throughout the semester: One pre-test on the first day and one post-test on the last lecture day. The tests are design for students to see and understand their general knowledge of four key sport ideologies—Gender, race, social class, and ability—and to see if this perspective changes at the end of the term. This is graded for completion. See Canvas for more specifics.

Videos (100 points)

There will be four 90 second maximum videos assigned throughout the semester. These are designed to allow students to express their thoughts in an avenue other than writing. See Canvas for more specifics. Students who have issues uploading their videos to Canvas can email them to the professor before the due date/time for credit.

Reflections (100 points)

Reflections are individual assignments and there will be two reflection papers due for each student this semester. Students will submit reflections BEFORE class on the assigned day and based on their assigned groups. Groups will be created through Canvas and shared with the class. Reflections should be 1-2 pages double-spaced with 1-inch margins; name, date, and reflection question at the top. One point will be deducted for lack of proper formatting. Students should follow 7th edition APA formatting for references and citations. This should be submitted as a Word document for easier grading/feedback. Late papers associated with unexcused absences will not be accepted and will be counted as a zero. An example reflection is under the first module as an example, but please note, the reflection is from an unrelated class. These papers should include the application of concepts from course readings, lectures, and/or class discussions. Students will select from a question posted to Canvas for that particular reflection. The objective of reflections is to apply readings to one's own experiences, tell the reader something new, critique the literature, 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 paper should NOT BE A SUMMARY. Additionally, two references—at least one from class—must be provided and cited in the reflection. See Canvas for more specifics and questions.

Final Project (100 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. 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. This paper serves as the Graduate Final Exam Requirement for this course. See below for more information.

*****Graduate Final Exam Requirement:** The successful completion of the Final Project will fulfill a requirement of the Graduate Final Exam which is a requirement to be completed prior to the completion of the M.S in Sport Management degree at the University of Florida. To successfully complete the Sociology and the Management of Sport, the student must earn a minimum of 200 points (80%) on the assignment. A failure to meet the minimum of 2400 points (80%) will require the student to redo the assignment, handing it into the instructor by a newly stated deadline, which will be before the end of the semester. However, the resubmission grade will not count towards the course but will count towards the successful completion of that Graduate Final Exam portion. A failure to successfully resubmit the Sociology and the Management of Sport will result in earning an "Incomplete" (I) grade for the course until the requirement has been met. (Please note: An "Incomplete" (I) grade becomes punitive to your overall GPA approximately one semester

following the assigned “Incomplete” grade.) It is the student’s responsibility to arrange with the instructor and agree in writing the timeline for successfully completing the paper in fulfillment of the Graduate Final Exam portion. If the student successfully earns a minimum of 80% on the first submission of the Final Project, then no further action is necessary. **This is a SPM Department and University of Florida requirement, not the professor’s.**

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 assignments for each session as well as engage in classroom activities. The **quality (not just quantity)** of your comments/discussion will be evaluated and recorded after each class. Students should demonstrate knowledge and thoughtful analysis of the readings along with the ability to express ideas clearly and effectively. Similarly, students are encouraged to make connections from the readings and topics to their own experiences and ask questions throughout the semester. If you do not plan to participate, this course might not be the right fit for you.

Each day of class is worth 4 points for participation for a total of 100 points across the semester. An unexcused absence will be a 0 for that day and an excused absence will receive 2 points on that day (unless you invoke the “Oh S*&\$ clause described below). Students who leave or arrive early will also receive partial participation. An unexcused absence is a 0--if you're not present, you can't participate. Excused absences are half-credit--again, if you're not there you can't participate. To earn these 2 points, students must contact the professor the school week of their absence to request an "exercise" question from the day they missed. Students will then have 1 week to answer said question to earn 2 points. Unexcused absences include working athletics events, 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. See university policies for more details. See Canvas for more specifics.

“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.

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) 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, 352-392-1575, or visit 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 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.
- **University Police Department:** Visit 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.

Academic & Student Support

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