

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

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Office Hours: Mondays 12-1pm, Wednesdays 11:30am-12:30pm, 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.**
- Per the Board of Governors’ Regulation 8.003, instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

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**.

Grade Distribution (in 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/>.

Final Project (100 points)***

Students will design a public-facing advocacy campaign to raise awareness about a self-chosen sociologically significant issue in sport. The goal is to translate complex sociological theory into accessible, compelling messages for a general audience. In doing so, students will showcase strong understandings of sport sociology concepts and the ability to apply them beyond the classroom and into the "read world." This will include a one-page campaign overview (30 points), 3 distinct campaign materials (40 points), and a one-page classroom-to-beyond bridge component (30 points). See Canvas for additional 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 80% on the assignment. A failure to meet the minimum of 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.**

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.

Participation (75 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.

An unexcused absence will be a 0 for that day and an excused absence will still receive point deduction 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 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 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.

Academic Article Presentation (50 points)

Throughout the semester, groups of 2–3 students will present one assigned academic journal article to the class. Your group will read, understand, and communicate the key ideas, context/background, findings, and implications of the assigned article in an accessible, engaging way. Students must do a PowerPoint (or something similar), but they may also add a handout, and/or activity. Your presentation should not only review the article's content but also critically engage with it through discussion questions, critiques, and connections to course concepts and potentially other readings. In all, this should take about 25-30 minutes. Other students are not required to read the article in advance, so your presentation should be clear and thorough enough for classmates to understand the article without prior reading. See Canvas for more specifics.

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, but be nice!

Classroom Policies

1. Students are not allowed to record without accommodations.
2. Students are not allowed to take pictures of the slides without professor consent and must give an appropriate reason as to why they need photos rather than notes.
3. Athletes enrolled in the course should contact the professor, not the athlete's academic advisor.
4. Doctor's appointments during class that are not an emergency are UNEXCUSED absences.
5. AI use is LIMITED in this course and should only be used for learning support like brief brainstorming and checking grammar. Other uses are prohibited unless approved by the professor. AI use is limited to NaviGator and Copilot and students must be logged in using their ufl credentials. If the professor suspects inappropriate AI, they may ask for the recordings and output of your AI history (allowed per UF policy). Additionally, if students use AI outside of the aforementioned approved parameters, assignment grade may warrant failure at the professor's discretion.

Other University of Florida Policies

Please see link below provided by the University of Florida for additional academic policies and resources:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>