**SOCIOLOGY 2T03**

**Sociology of Sport**

**Spring 2020** **Instructor: Dr. Rhona Shaw**

Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00 – 4:00 pm Ext: 23617

Lecture Hall Location: ONLINE Office: KTH 632

Office Hours: by email or phone Email: [shawrm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:shawrm@mcmaster.ca)

**Course Description**

This course offers students a critical examination of sociological perspectives on the social, cultural and economic dimensions of sport in western societies. Students will have the opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics and issues related to sport through several sociological lenses – Structural Functionalist, Neo-Marxist, Feminist, Symbolic Interactionist, Post-Structuralist and Figurational. Topics to be discussed may include the following: the racialization of sport, the gendered nature of sport, class dynamics of sport, doping and violence in professional sport, sport and the body, and disability and emerging technologies and sport performance.

**Course Learning Objectives**

This course addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see, http://cll.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf). First, theoretical perspectives of the structure and organization of sport are multiple and diverse in their conceptualizations and truth claims. Acquiring knowledge of these diverse approaches will expand students’ depth and breadth of knowledge of this field of inquiry. Second, there is no single method (sociological and otherwise) that has been accepted as the final or best approach to explaining the complexities of sport in Canada. As such, this course requires that students consider and critically evaluate all competing theoretical and empirical approaches. In so doing, students will gain an awareness of the problematics and limits of knowledge regarding our understanding of what is regarded as deviance. Finally, this course will encourage students to discuss theoretical and practical issues in class. Grading for this course will be based on regular tutorial attendance and participation, 1 written assignment and two examinations (mid-term and final). In each case, the student’s communication skills will be challenged as well as enhanced.

**Important Note:** Introductory Sociology (1A06 or 1Z03) is a prerequisite for this class.

**Required Readings**

All required readings will be made available on Avenue to Learn.

**Evaluation:**

(i) Written assignment - Critical Reflection Paper or Annotated Bibliography **(30%)** - **Due Thursday June 11th midnight. Submit on AVE, in Assessments folder.**

(ii) Midterm exam **(25%)** **– Tuesday May 26th** **1-3pm online.**

(iii) Four (4) summaries from any of the weekly readings, *from Weeks 3 – 7,* **(5% each) 20%.**

**You may submit throughout the term, but all 4 must be submitted by Tuesday June 16th midnight in order to receive the full 20%.**

(iv) Final exam **(25%)** - **Thursday June 18th** **1-3pm online.**

**Additional Information on Assignments**

Assignments must be turned in by midnight of the day they are due. All pages **must be numbered** and have 1" margins on all sides. All text should be double-spaced in an easy-to-read 12-point font. **Failure to adhere to these guidelines will be reflected in the mark for the assignment**.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at www.mcmaster.ca/ policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf.

**The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:**

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. In assignments, complete citations are required for all quotes and paraphrases. Consult the required writing style guide for information on how to properly cite the work of others.

2. Improper collaboration in group work. In this course, I encourage students to work together to understand concepts, discuss ideas, study for exams, etc. Improper collaboration would be defined as using the work of others to get out of doing your own work, claiming the work of others as your own, etc.

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Review of Marks**

I will be diligent in marking all assignments fairly and accurately. Nonetheless, occasionally students disagree with the marks they receive. When this occurs, we will be happy to review the mark of any assignment or exam, if the procedure outlined below is followed. ***Please note that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.*** To request a review of a mark, write a 1-page memo (on paper, not email) describing in detail the nature of the perceived marking error. Submit this memo, with the original marked assignment to me. You may submit requests for review no sooner than one week and no later than one month after assignments/exams are handed back to the class.

**Late Assignments and Absences**

The McMaster Student Absence Form (http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf) is a self-reporting tool for undergraduate students to report absences that last up to 3 days. This form allows students to request accommodation for any missed academic work. This tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of one Academic Work Missed request per term. It is your responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent more than 3 classes, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a non-medical reason, you must visit the office of the Associate Dean of your Faculty. You may be required to provide supporting documentation. Any disruption this causes to turning in assignments on time, completing exams, and so forth, must be addressed directly with me as soon as possible. **For late assignments without approved excuses, you must make arrangements directly with me to submit the assignment.** Assignments will be marked down 5 percentage points for each day it is late, including weekend days and holidays. **I will NOT accept late papers that are *3* or more days late, and you will be given a mark of 0 for this assignment.**

**Accommodations**

We are committed to making appropriate accommodations for students' observance of religious holidays. Please contact your instructor as early in the term as possible to make individual arrangements.

We are also committed to working with students with disabilities to make individualized accommodations according to your specific needs. All such arrangements must be made through the Student Accessibility Services department. Please drop by the instructor's office hours at the beginning of the term to make individual arrangements and to complete the necessary paperwork. All such arrangements will be kept confidential.

**Email – use** [**shawrm@mcmaster.ca**](mailto:shawrm@mcmaster.ca) **only**

Please consider email equivalent to any other form of written communication. Students who write to their professors and teaching assistants are expected to follow rules of spelling, grammar and punctuation. In addition, please include a proper greeting, such as "**Dear Dr. Shaw,"** ***the course you are taking***, and a closing that includes your full name, such as **"Sincerely, Anita Koctail."** Email failing to meet these standards may be returned unanswered. Email containing questions that can be answered by referring to this syllabus or to Avenue to Learn may not be answered. I do check the separate Avenue to Learn email, but only intermittently, so please do not try to contact me that way. ***All email communication must come from your mcmaster.ca email account.***

***The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in certain or extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term in order to note any changes.***

**Sociology Department Policies**

The Sociology staff will not date-stamp assignments or monitor the submission or return of papers. Turn in assignments via Avenue to Learn. Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (e.g., class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.). Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

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| **Week No.** | **TOPICS &**  **READINGS** |
| **Week 1**  May 5th  May 7th | **The Sociology of Sport**  **Readings:**  (i) Frey, J. 1991. Sport and Society.  **Theoretical Approaches to Understanding Sport**  **Readings:**  Sage, G, D. Eitzen & B. Beal. 1989. Chapter 1: The sociological analysis of sport in North American Society. |
| **Week 2**  May 12th  May 14th | **Ancient and Modern Olympic Games**  **Ancient Games**  **Readings:**  (i) Kidd, B. 2013. The myth of the Ancient Games.  **Documentary: Ancient Olympics: Let the Games Begin**  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTTyvSGLMvI>  **Modern Games**  **Readings:**  (i) Guttmann, A. 2000. The development of modern sports. |
| **Week 3**  May19th  May 21st | **Social Class**  **Readings:**  (i) Sage, D and D. Eitzen. 2015. Is sport a mobility escalator?  **Race**  **Readings:**  (i) Sailes, G. 1991. The myth of black sports supremacy. |
| **Week 4**  **May 26th**  May 28th | **MIDTERM EXAM** |
| **The Body in Sport**  **Readings:**  (i) Shilling, C. 2012. The body and social inequalities: embodying society. pgs 2-8 Connell’s argument. |
| **Week 5**  June 2nd  June 4th | **Gender**  **Readings:**  (i) Kidd. B. 2013. Sports and masculinity.  **Doing Gender in Sports**  **Readings:**  (i) Bemiller, M. 2005. Men who Cheer.  (ii) Krane, V. et al. 2004. Living the paradox: Female athletes negotiate femininity and muscularity. |
| **Week 6**  June 9th  June 11th | **Controversies in Sport**  **Violence in Sport**  **Readings:**  (i) Young, K. 2015. Assessing the sociology of sport: On sports violence and ways of seeing.  **Fairness in Sport – Doping and**  **Readings:**  (i) Conti, A. Doping in sports in Ancient and recent times. |
| **Week 7**  June 16th  **Thurs June 18th** | **Disability**  (ii) Howe, P. and C. Silva. 2017. The cyborgification of paralympic sport.  **4 Article Reviews due by midnight** |
| **FINAL EXAM** |