University of Florida, Fall 2007

Sociology of Sport

Professor: Tamir Sorek
Time: Tuesday 3:00 to 6:00
Location: 1094 Weimer Hall
Office hours: 3356 Turlington Hall, Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:00 or by appointment.
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Description

Sport is popularly considered as a sphere separate from 'important' aspects of social and political dynamics. Sociological and anthropological studies have proven the opposite: both active and passive involvements in competitive sports take part in shaping and undermining collective identities, as well as in political mobilization around these identities. This course takes a global and comparative perspective to follow the processes through which national, racial, ethnic, civic, religious, local and gender identities are constructed by sport. Special emphasis is given to: The significance of sport in deeply divided societies; sports as a political battleground for the production of meanings in ethno-national conflicts and colonial contexts; the implication of sport globalization on various collective identities. The theoretical themes are illustrated through various particular case studies around the globe, including North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, India, the Middle East, Brazil, and Papua-New Guinea.

Grading

1. Three quizzes 3 x 8 = 24 %
2. Participation in the website forum and in classroom 20 %
4. Mid-term paper 20 %
5. A movie review 6 %
5. Final paper 30 %

Assignments

Reading

3. Items from e-reserves.
Participation

Attendance in class and web participation is mandatory. **The discussion board on the course e-learning website is an integral part of the course. Together with classroom participation it is worth 20% of your final grade.** At the end of the semester your participation will be graded based on: 1. **Quality:** the level of involvement in the course materials (both reading and lectures) that your posting reflects; 2. **Consistency:** in order to achieve the maximal grade you will have to post a relevant and thoughtful comment at least once a week. A 'comment' can be: criticism of the article/lecture, pointing out how a specific article refers to other items or lectures in the course, an idea that came to mind while reading the article, a reaction to a classmate's argument or, reference to subjects of discussions proposed in class, or a clever question. You are expected to comment on the relevant reading/lecture of each week. While grading your participation, delayed comments will not be counted. Posting a comment related to the reading before the relevant lecture will be rewarded. **Please note that there is no way to make up for poor web participation and/or poor class attendance.**

Quizzes

Throughout the semester you will be required to take three quizzes. Each quiz will include 10 to 12 multiple choice questions and it will take 15 minutes; its weight in the final grade is 8%. Please be aware that taking the quizzes is mandatory. The only exception is a documented health problem.

A movie review

Throughout the semester we will watch four documentary movies. You are required to submit a review of one of them, no later than 7 days after the screening. A review is not a summary - you are expected to write your thoughts about the movie as a student in the course 'Sociology of Sport'. The length should be approximately 300 words.

Mid-term Paper

By October 12th you will be required to submit an essay according to instructions that will be given later. The essay’s length should be approximately 1200 words and it is worth 20% of your final grade.

Final paper

By December 7th you will be required to submit a final essay according to instructions that will be given later. The essay’s length should be approximately 1400 words and it is worth 30% of your final grade.

Independent Study

Students who have a particular interest in a specific subject can ask (no later than 9/20) to replace both mid term and final papers by a research project. If the subject is approved, the student should submit a first draft as mid term paper and a final draft as final paper.
Class schedule and reading assignments

8/28: Sports and Modernity
Reading: Sports in Society, Chapters 1, (p. 1-29)

9/4: Sports and Social Class-I
Reading: Sports in Society, Chapter 2-3 (p. 30-53; 54-87)

9/11: Sports and Social Class-II
Reading:
- Sports in Society, Chapter 10 (p. 320-357)

9/18: Sports, Gender, and Sexuality - I
Reading:
Sports in Society, Chapters 8 (p. 232-278)

9/25: Sports, Gender, and Sexuality - II
Reading:
- Guest Lecturer: Professor Kendal L. Broad, Department of Sociology.
- Quiz I

10/2: Sports and Racial Conflicts I
Reading:
Sports in Society, Chapters 11 (p. 280-319)

10/9: Sports and Racial Conflicts II
Movie: Fist of Freedom

10/16: Sports and Racial Conflicts III
Movie: Hoop Dreams
Reading: Hartmann, Douglas. 2000. "Rethinking the relations between sports and race in American culture: Golden ghettos and contested terrain." Sociology of Sport Journal 17, pp. 229-253

10/23: Sport and National Identities
Reading: Sport, Nationalism and Globalization. Ch. 1,3,5,6 (1-20, 45-68, 91 – 137)
Quiz II
10/30: Sport, Colonialism, and Decolonization  
Movie: Trobriand Cricket  

11/6: Sport in Deeply Divided Societies I - South Africa and Northern Ireland  
Reading:  
- *Sport, Nationalism and Globalization*:  
  Ch.2: British Nationalism or Ulster Nationalism? Sport and the Protestants of Northern Ireland.  
  Ch.4: National Identity and International Recognition: Sport and the Development of Irish Nationalism  

11/13: Sport in Deeply Divided Societies II - Israel  
Movie: Mondial in Shefaram  

11/27: Sport and Globalization  
Reading:  
- *Sport, Nationalism and Globalization*, Ch. 8 (163-171)  

12/4: Sport and Religion  
Reading:  
Sports in Society, Chapters 15 (p. 528-563)  
- Sorek, Tamir, 2007, “The Islamic Soccer League” Ch.7 (pp. 128-149) from: Arab Soccer in a Jewish State: The Integrative Enclave (Cambridge University Press).  

Quiz III