

HTS 3075 Foundations of Sports Studies

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:15 pm
Old Civil Engineer RM G10

Instructor: Sarah Barnes

Office hours:

Thursdays: 2:00- 3:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Contact information:

Old CE Building, Room G17
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Course Description:

This course is designed to teach students about the historical, social, economic, and technological importance of sports in local and global contexts through multidisciplinary case studies. Students will learn about sports as a mass-cultural phenomenon and examine their relationship to broader social and economic domains (including education, consumer culture, science and technology, communities, politics, and the media) to better understand sports practices and controversies. We will also consider how race, gender, social class, and sexuality have shaped contemporary and historical sporting experiences. This course provides opportunities for students to investigate how social, political, and economic trends related to sport have emerged in Atlanta and at Georgia Tech. The underlying goal of this course is to critically interrogate the ideas and philosophies that support different ways of studying and problem-solving across sport-related academic disciplines. To do this, students will engage with foundational material from a number of sports studies disciplines and conduct individual and group research projects, representing their findings through a variety of scholarly formats.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will apply concepts and methods from a number of scholarly disciplines related to the study of sports.
- Students will compare and contrast major social issues impacting sports cultures.
- Students will analyze how social, political, and/or economic forces shape the culture of sports on local, national, and global scales.

Course Format:

This course requires students to participate in class discussions, to apply critical reading skills, and to undertake group and individual projects. Students will also learn from a number of guest lectures that are led by experts from various academic disciplines related to sports studies.

Students will engage with readings from both the academic literature and popular press, and interrogate definitions of sports by conducting primary research. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to each class (i.e. take notes, prepare questions) and be ready to discuss them. Course readings will be provided on Canvas in advance of the class for which they assigned.

Grading and Requirements:

Course grades are made up of the following components:

Attendance and participation: 20%

Module 1 & 2 Exam: 15%

Module 3 & 4 Exam: 15%

Projects: 50%

- Georgia Tech Sports History Archives Assignment: 15%

- Media Analysis: 15%

- Current Issues in Sport & Sport Studies Group Presentation: 20%

Further instructions for each of the course requirements will be provided in class and on Canvas.

Grading Scale:

A: 90 - 100%

B: 80 - 89%

C: 70 - 79%

D: 60 - 69%

F: 59% and below

Attendance and Participation – 20%

Attendance Grade: 5%

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared to discuss assigned readings, participate in class activities, and actively listen (i.e. take notes and prepare follow-up questions).

Participation Grade: 10%

Success in this course depends upon your preparation and in-class participation. Participation grades will be calculated based on in-class engagement, contributions to class discussions, and completion of other small assignments corresponding to specific topics throughout the term. Instructions for these requirements will be discussed in class and posted to Canvas.

In-Class Reading Quizzes: 5%

There will be 6 short quizzes throughout the term to assess students' level of engagement and familiarity with the assigned reading(s) for that class. The dates of these in-class quizzes will **not** be posted in advance; thus, students should come to each class prepared to complete a quiz to the best of their ability drawing on their knowledge of assigned readings. Each quiz will be graded out of 20 with each student's lowest grade being dropped from final grade calculations. The format of these quizzes will vary and more details being provided in class.

Attendance Policy

As stated in the Institute's attendance policy, "students are responsible for all material covered in their absences, and they are responsible for the academic consequences of their absences" (<http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/class-attendance>). Students missing classes because of documented personal emergencies or participation in Institute-approved activities (e.g. class field

trip, athletic events) are permitted to make up work missed during class time, but will be expected to attend class in all other circumstances. Please let me know as soon as possible when you will miss a class due to a personal emergency or participation in an Institute-approved activity so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Module 1 & 2 Midterm – 15% (Tuesday, October 2)

This exam will involve a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer questions. The exam will be held in-class and will cover all readings and lectures from these modules (including guest lectures).

Modules 3 and 4 Exam – 15% (Monday December 10)

Modules 3 and 4 will be evaluated through an exam featuring multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, and an essay-style question. This exam will cover all readings and lectures from Modules 3 and 4 (including guest lectures), as well as a short essay-style question asking students to reflect on the course as a whole.

Projects – 50% Students will be completing the following three projects related to specific aspects of the course:

Georgia Tech Sports History Archives Assignment: 15%

Due: Tuesday, September 25

Working in pairs, students will produce an historical timeline of a particular topic related to Georgia Tech's sports culture. Research for this project will be conducted in the Georgia Tech archives and can also involve other historical resources on campus (e.g. Living History Program, the Athletic Heritage Museum, monuments and plaques etc.). In addition to the timeline, students are required to provide a brief introduction to their topic, a written reflection, a resource list, and an annotated bibliography. Groups and topics will be assigned in class, and in-class periods will be dedicated to a formal orientation at the archives and introducing the tools required to complete this assignment.

Media Analysis: 15%

Due: Tuesday, October 17

This assignment requires students to complete a content analysis of print media (e.g. *Sports Illustrated* or *ESPN: The Magazine*). Following a research methodology outlined in an article provided by the instructor, students will write a **5-6 page** (typed, double-spaced) paper that explains their analysis and summarizes their findings.

Current Problems in Sport Studies (Group Presentations): 20%

Due: In-class November 27 & 29

Working in groups of 4, students will analyze a contemporary event or news story from the world of sport and develop an activity that will deepen our understanding of the issue. Your objective is to illustrate the multi-disciplinary nature of sports studies by showing how two (or more) academic approaches covered in class can be used to provide a more complex understanding of problems in sports today. Students can choose any event or news story, as long as it is documented in the sports media and takes place during the time period covered by this

course (i.e. August to November 2018). These assignments will be uploaded to Canvas. More details about how to complete this project will be provided during the term.

Extra Credit Opportunities:

The following extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the course:

Speaker Review:

On September 16, 2018 the Sports, Society, and Technology program is hosting **A Conversation with Wyomia Tyus** to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this Griffin, Georgia native's back-to-back Olympic track gold medals in the 100-meter dash (1964, 1968). An introduction will be provided by the former Georgia Tech football player and head football coach Bill Curry. Dr. Damion Thomas, a Curator of Sports at the Smithsonian Institute, will moderate the discussion. **Students can attend the discussion and complete the assigned worksheet for 2% extra credit toward their Module 2 Media Analysis Project grade.** More details will be provided in class.

Time: 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Date: September 16, 2018

Location: Georgia Tech Student Theater, 350 Ferst Drive, Atlanta 30332

Guest Lecture Summary: Following the guidelines posted to Canvas, students will complete a summary of any one of the guest lectures throughout the term. Students who submit a complete summary will receive a **2% extra credit toward their participation grade.** Summaries must be submitted no later than one week after the relevant guest lecture.

Course Expectations

Policy for Late Assignments: Unless a student provides documentation of their involvement in a university-sanctioned event or illustrating extenuating personal circumstances (medical/family emergencies etc.), assignments submitted after their due date will be subject to a 5% deduction per day (weekends count as one day).

Academic Honesty: Students in this class will be expected to abide by the Georgia Tech honor code. Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with Georgia Tech rules. For further information, go to: www.honor.gatech.edu

General Courtesy Guidelines: We expect students to respect their classmates and instructors at all times. Students are expected to be on time for class, refrain from being disruptive, and silence their electronic devices before class begins. Sleeping in class, text messaging, or using a computer for any purposes other than in-class research or taking notes will negatively impact your participation grade. I reserve the right to ask students to leave the class if they are engaging in distracting or inappropriate behaviors.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing,

note takers, readers, etc., please speak with the instructor as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Office of the Dean of Students (ODS). The ODS phone number is 404-894-2563.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is subject to change to accommodate the availability of guest speakers. Please refer to Canvas for the most up-to-date class/reading schedule.

Week 1 (August 21 & 23)

Tuesday – **Intro to Course**

Thursday – **What is sport and why do we study it?**

Readings: Knott (n.d.), “Critical reading toward critical writing”; Sykes, J. (2017) “The yin and yang of basketball [podcast].”

MODULE 1: Socio-historical Aspects of Sports

Week 2 (August 28 & 30)

Tuesday – Sport history I (Georgia Tech Sports History)

Readings: Naison (2014), “Why sports history is American history;” Assigned chapters in: Chastain, B. (2011).

Thursday - Orientation at the Georgia Tech Archives

This class is meant to help students begin the research process for their Module 1 assignment and *will take place at the Georgia Tech Archives (located in the Neely Reading Room in the GT Library - near Clough entrance).*

Week 3 (September 4 & 6)

Tuesday – Sport history II

Readings: Jarvie (2006), “Sport, history, and social change”; Dreier (2013), “The real story of baseball’s integration that you won’t see in 42.”

Thursday – Sport sociology I

Readings: Sage (1990), “A sociological perspective of sport”; Zirin (2008), “Calling sports sociology off the bench;” Guest (2015) “Fighting the great sport myth”

MODULE 2: Sport media and management

Week 4 (September 11 & 13)

Tuesday – Archives work period

- Please meet at the Georgia Tech Archives (located in the Neely Reading Room in the GT Library - near Clough entrance).

Thursday - Entertainment and celebrity sport culture

Readings: Andrews (2006), “That’s sportainment!”; Harrison (2017), “Stick to Sports”

Week 5 (September 18 & 20)

Tuesday – Media representation in sport

Guest lecture: Dr. Mary McDonald

Reading: Cooky, Messner, & Musto (2015), “It’s Dude Time!”

Also recommended: Martin & McDonald (2012), “Covering women’s sport?”

Thursday – Sport biography and history

Guest lecture: Dr. Johnny Smith

Reading: Smith (2018) “The reign of Lew Alcindor in the age of revolt”

Week 6 (September 25 & 27)

Tuesday – Sport management and marketing

Reading: Stewart (2015), “Sport without management”; Klara (2016), “How Nike brilliantly ruined Olympic marketing forever;”

Georgia Tech Sport History Assignment due on Tuesday

Thursday- Module wrap up and midterm review

Week 7 (October 2 & 4)

Tuesday – Module 1 & 2 Midterm

MODULE 3: Local, national, and global sports

Thursday - The global politics of soccer

Guest lecture: Dr. Kirk Bowman

Readings: Will be assigned

Week 8 (October 9 & 11)

Tuesday: No class (Fall Recess)

Thursday: Globalization and sport

Readings: Thibault (2009), “Globalization of sport”

Week 9 (October 16 & 18)

Tuesday: Mega events

Readings: Horne & Manzenreiter (2006), “An introduction to the sociology of sports mega-events”

Thursday: College sports

Readings: Will be assigned

Week 10 (October 23 & 25)

Tuesday: Sports in Atlanta

Readings: Keating (2001), “The Olympics Era”; Arsenault (2014), “Atlanta games’ venues left some lessons for Boston”; Brown (2014), “The eroding legacy of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.” Godwin (2017), “Neighbors at odds over GSU- Turner Field agreement.”

Thursday: The Politics of Sports Stadia

Guest lecture: Dr. Benjamin Flowers

Readings: Flowers, B. (2011). Stadiums: Architecture and the iconography of the beautiful game.

Media analysis project due

MODULE 4: Scientific-problem solving

Week 11 (October 30 & November 1)

Tuesday: The sport sciences

Readings: Twietmeyer (2012), “What is Kinesiology?” Assigned ESPN “Sports Science” videos

Thursday: Class release

Week 12 (November 6 & 8)

Tuesday: Sports Analytics and Data Visualizations

Guest lecture: Dr. John Stasko

Readings: Millington & Millington (2016), “‘The Datafication of Everything’;” McGhee, “Using maps and data to understand tennis”

Thursday – Sport medicine, pain & injury in sport

Readings: Pike (2004), “Risk, pain and injury”; Clay (2017), “My osteoporosis nightmare”

Week 13 (November 13 & 15)

Tuesday – Concussions and neuroscience

Guest lecture: Dr. Michelle LaPlaca

Readings: McCrory et al (2017), “Consensus statement on concussion in sport;” Keating, P. (2017), “Why does it seem like nobody cares about female concussions?”

Thursday - Sleep science and high performance sport I

Readings: Barnes (2018) “Sleep performance is the new performance”; Belson (2016); McCoy (2016)

Week 14 (November 20 & 22)

Tuesday: Sleep science and high performance sport II

Readings: Barnes (2018);

Thursday – Thanksgiving

Week 15 (November 27 & 29)

Tuesday - Group presentations

Thursday - Group presentations

Week 16 (Dec 4 – 5)

Tuesday – Course Conclusion/Exam Review

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| ## FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 at 11:20-2:10 pm |
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