

HTS 3075 Foundations of Sports Studies Spring 2019

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45
Architecture East 309

Instructor Dr. Sarah Barnes

Office hours: Tuesdays at 11:00 am or by appointment

Contact information

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Course description

This course presents students with the theoretical and methodological approaches that scholars have used to study and problematize sport, movement, and the body. Through multidisciplinary case studies, we will examine sport as a mass-cultural phenomenon and consider its historical, social, economic, scientific, and technological aspects. We will explore how power and social categories, including race, gender, social class, and sexuality, make sport a site of contested cultural meaning and a key place where social inequalities are both challenged and reproduced. Classroom activities, as well as individual and group assignments, will encourage students to reflect on their own investments in dominant sport culture as athletes, weekend warriors, fans, coaches, scientists, tech innovators, and consumers. Students will also have the unique opportunity to conduct primary research on sporting events and controversies connected to Atlanta and the Georgia Tech campus.

Learning objectives and outcomes

- To become familiar with the theoretical concepts and methodological approaches that scholars have used to study and problematize sport.
- To demonstrate an understanding of the difference between knowledge about sport based on scientific and/or theoretical perspectives and knowledge derived from personal opinions and observations.
- To gain an understanding of sport as a key site for the circulation of power and the reproduction of social inequalities without losing sight of its potential for liberatory forms of cultural expression
- To develop skills related to scholarly practices of reading, writing, analysis, and speaking.

Course Format

This course is organized around readings, guest lectures, and classroom activities. Students will engage with readings from academic literatures and the popular press, and interrogate definitions of sports by conducting primary research. Students will also have the opportunity to learn from guest lectures with expertise in various academic disciplines related to sports studies. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to each class (i.e. take notes, prepare questions) and to be ready to discuss them. Course readings will be provided on Canvas in advance of the class for which they are assigned.

Grading and Requirements

Participation and attendance: 10%

Reading quizzes: 10%

Midterm exam: 15%

Final 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

Participation Grade: 10%

Success in this course depends on your preparation ahead of time and your ability to make meaningful contributions in the classroom. We will discuss what does and does not count as a meaningful contribution during the first class of term. This information will also be posted on Canvas.

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).

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.

In-Class Reading Quizzes: 10%

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 2, with each student's lowest grade being dropped from final grade calculations. The format of these quizzes will vary and more details will be provided in class.

Midterm – 15% (Thursday, February 14)

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).

Final Exam – 15% (Monday, April 29)

The final exam will feature multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, and an essay-style question. This exam will cover all readings and lectures from week 7 onwards (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% (Thursday, February 28)

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, monuments and plaques etc.). 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% (Thursday, March 28)

This assignment requires each student to complete a content analysis of a print media source (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 page (typed, double-spaced) paper that analyzes the gendered nature of sport media coverage.

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

Working in groups of 3-4, 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. January to April, 2019). 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:

Documentary Film Screening and Panel of "Black and Blue" on Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30 pm. The event will be held at Georgia Tech's Global Learning Center, Room 236. Students can

attend the film screening and panel discussion and then complete a small assignment. Students will earn an extra 2% towards their Media Analysis Project.

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:

<http://osi.gatech.edu/content/honor-code>

General Courtesy Guidelines: 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 or go to: <https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>

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

Tuesday, January 8 - Intro to Course

Thursday, January 10 - What is sport and why do we study it?

Readings:

- 1) Sykes, J. (2017) "The yin and yang of basketball [podcast]." *99 Percent Invisible*.
<https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/yin-yang-basketball/>

Week 2

Tuesday, January 15 – What is sport history? Sport history I

Readings:

- 1) Jarvie, G. (2006), "Sport, history, and social change." *Sport, culture, and society. An introduction*. London: Routledge. pp 43-54.
- 2) Naison, M. (2010, March 5) "Why sports history is American history"
<http://withabrooklynaccent.blogspot.com/2010/03/why-sports-history-is-american-history.html>

Thursday, January 17 – Sport history II (Georgia Tech Sports History)

Readings:

- 1) Assigned chapters in: Chastain, B. (2011). *Jackrabbit: The story of Clint Castleberry and the improbable 1942 Georgia Tech Football Season*.

Week 3

Tuesday, January 22 –What is sport sociology? Sport sociology I

Readings:

- 1) Sage, G. (1990), "A sociological perspective of sport" *Power and ideology in American sport: A critical perspective*. Human Kinetics Publishers.
- 2) Zirin, D. (2008, nd), "Calling sports sociology off the bench;"
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1525/ctx.2008.7.3.28>
- 3) Guest, A (2015, January 29). Fighting the great sport myth. *The Allrounder* Retrieved from: <http://theallrounder.co/2015/01/29/fighting-the-great-sports-myth/>

Thursday January 24 – What are archives? An introduction

***Guest speaker from the Georgia Tech Archives

Week 4

Tuesday January 29 – Sport sociology II

Readings:

- 1) Birrell, S & McDonald, M. (2000) "Reading sport, articulating power lines: An introduction" in *Reading sport: Critical Essays on Power and Representation*, edited by Susan Birrell and Mary McDonald. Boston: Northeastern University Press, pp. 3-13.

Thursday January 31 – Gender and media representations in sport

Readings:

- 1) Cooky, C., Messner, M. A., & Musto, M. (2015). "It's dude time!" A quarter century of excluding women's sports in televised news and highlight shows. *Communication & Sport*, 3(3), 261-287.

Week 5

Tuesday February 5 – Archives work period

***Meet at GT archives

Thursday February 7 – What is sport management? Sport management I

Readings:

- 1) Frisby, W. (2005). The good, the bad, and the ugly: Critical sport management research. *Journal of sport management*, 19(1), 1-12.

Week 6

Tuesday February 12 — Midterm review

Thursday February 14 – Midterm Exam

Week 7

Tuesday February 19 – Nationalism and sport – Documentary Film Screening Part I

Readings:

- 1) Phillip, G (2017, May 11). Maya Zinshtein explores how soccer and racism intersect in Israel (2017) <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/blog/maya-zinshtein-explores-soccer-racism-israel/>

Thursday, February 21- Nationalism and sport - Documentary Film Screening Part II

Readings: None

Week 8

Tuesday February 26— Globalization and sport

Readings:

- 1) Thibault, L. (2009). Globalization of sport: An inconvenient truth. *Journal of sport management*, 23(1), 1-20.

Thursday February 28 – What are mega sporting events?

***Guest lecture Dr. Mary McDonald

Readings:

- 1) Horne, J., & Manzenreiter, W. (2006). An introduction to the sociology of sports mega-events. *The sociological review*, 54(2_suppl), 1-24.

Week 9

Tuesday March 5 – Global, local, and the Superbowl

Readings:

- 1) Hopsicker, P (2017) “Superbowling”: Using the Super Bowl’s Yearly commentary to explore the evolution of a Sporting Spectacle in the American Consciousness.

Thursday March 7 – Identity and politics in international soccer

*****Guest lecture: Dr. Kirk Bowman

Readings: Burdsey, D (2018). Soccer, Race and Empire: Locating the Past in the Present.

Week 10

Tuesday March 12 – What are the legacies of the 1996 Atlanta Games?

***Guest speaker Sarah Dylla – The Atlanta History Centre

Readings:

- 1) Keating, L. (2010). "The Olympics Era". *Atlanta: Race, class and urban expansion*. Temple University Press.

Thursday March 14 – Coaching and youth sports

Readings:

- 1) Coakley, J. (2011). Youth sports: What counts as "positive development?". *Journal of sport and social issues*, 35(3), 306-324.

***** SPRING BREAK Week 11 March 18-22, 2019*****

Week 12

Tuesday March 26 – Is sleep performance the new performance? Sleep science and technologies in sport

Readings:

- 1) Mah, C. D., Mah, K. E., Kezirian, E. J., & Dement, W. C. (2011). The effects of sleep extension on the athletic performance of collegiate basketball players. *Sleep*, 34(7), 943-50. doi:10.5665/SLEEP.1132

Thursday March 28 – Sleep science, technologies, and athletes I

Readings:

None

****Media analysis due*

Week 13

Tuesday April – How do sports analytics work?

*** Guest lecture: Dr. Joel Sokol

Reading:

- 1) Spaaij, R., & Thiel, A. (2017). Big data: critical questions for sport and society.1-4

Thursday, April 4 –Exercise and sport science

****Guest lecture: Dr. Mindy Millard-Stafford*

Readings:

- 1) Assigned ESPN Videos

Week 14

Tuesday, April 9 – The concussion crisis

Readings:

- 1) McCrory, P., Meeuwisse, W., Dvorak, J., Aubry, M., Bailes, J., Broglio, S., ... & Davis, G. A. (2017). Consensus statement on concussion in sport—the 5th international

conference on concussion in sport held in Berlin, October 2016. *Br J Sports Med*, bjsports-2017.

- 2) Ventresca, M. (2017, February 20). Can technology alone solve the concussion crisis? *Engaging Sports*. <https://thesocietypages.org/engagingsports/2017/02/20/can-technology-alone-solve-the-concussion-crisis/>

Thursday, April 11 – *Mental health and high performance sport*

Readings:

- 1) Kalman-Lamb, N. and White, R. (2018, December 27). On Capitalism, Sport, Health, and Fandom: Royce A. White and Nathan Kalman-Lamb in Conversation. *LA Review of Books*. Retrieved from: <https://blog.lareviewofbooks.org/interviews/capitalism-sport-health-fandom-royce-white-nathan-kalman-lamb-conversation/>

Week 15

Tuesday April 16 - *Group Presentations*

Thursday April 18 - *Group Presentations*

Week 16

Tuesday April 23 – *Course conclusion*

FINAL EXAM: Monday, April 29 11:20 AM - 2:10 PM
