

HTS 3075 – FOUNDATIONS OF SPORTS STUDIES**Spring 2017**

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:35 - 10:55 AM
Architecture East (Room 309)

Instructor: Dr. Matt Ventresca

Office Hours:

Tues 3:15pm – 4:45pm
Thurs 11:15am – 12:45pm
and by appointment

Contact Information:

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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 mass-cultural phenomena 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 an opportunity to investigate how social, political, and economic trends related to sport have emerged in Atlanta and at Georgia Tech specifically. Yet the underlying goal of this course is to critically interrogate the ideas and philosophies supporting the different ways we can study sport across 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 and media formats.

Learning Outcomes:

- Apply concepts and methods from a number of scholarly disciplines to assess how sports have developed as mass-cultural phenomena.
- Situate sports within local, national, and global contexts to analyze the relationships between sports and education, politics, the economy, media, technology, and globalization.
- Examine how sports and sport participation inform how people think about their bodies, identities, and communities to evaluate how these practices are shaped by experiences of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and social class.
- Develop critical perspectives about the ways in which sport is studied and researched across a number of academic disciplines and sub-disciplines.

Course Format:

This course requires students to participate in class discussions, apply critical reading skills, and undertake group and individual projects. Students will also learn from a number of guest lectures by experts from different 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 sports studies 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 T-Square (in the Resources section) well 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 Exam: 15%

Module 3 Exam: 15%

Projects: 50%

- Georgia Tech Sports History Archives Assignment: 15%
- Media Analysis: 15%
- Podcast Assignment: 20%

Further instructions for each of the course requirements will be provided in class and on T-Square (in the Assignments section).

Grading Scale:

A: 90 - 100%

B: 80 - 89%

C: 70 - 79%

D: 60 - 69%

F: 59% and below

Participation – 20%

Success in this course is dependent upon your preparation and active in-class participation. 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 grades will be calculated based on the combination of student attendance, in-class engagement, and completion of the following:

Class Discussion Questions

Students are required to write three discussion questions prior to class that engage with the assigned readings for that day. These questions will be used to

facilitate discussion and will be handed in to the instructor at the end of each class. We will discuss the best ways to construct these questions early in the term. The course schedule provides dates on which the submission of discussion questions are not required.

Guest Lecture Summaries and Other Requirements

Students will also be responsible for summarizing 1 guest lecture and posting it on the appropriate T-Square forum. The instructor will also assign other small assignments (in lieu of discussion questions) corresponding to specific topics throughout the term. Instructions for these requirements will be discussed in class and posted to T-Square.

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 the instructor 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 Exam – 15% (Thursday, Feb 2)

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

Modules 3 and 4 Exam – 15% (Thursday, Apr 20)

Modules 3 and 4 will be evaluated through an exam featuring multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer, and essay-style questions. This exam will cover all readings and lectures from Module 3 (including guest lectures), but will also include 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: Thursday, February 16

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, resource list, and 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: Thursday, March 9

The project for Module 2, this assignment requires students to complete a content analysis of print media (e.g. *Sports Illustrated* or *ESPN: The Magazine*). Following research methodology outlined in an article provided by the instructor, students will write a **5 page** (typed, double-spaced) paper that explains their analysis and summarizes their findings.

Podcast Assignment: 20%

Due: Tuesday, May 2

Working in pairs, students will record a 12 to 15 minute podcast analyzing a contemporary event or news story from the world of sport. The goal of this podcast should be 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 a sports issue. 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 2017). These assignments will be uploaded to T-Square as digital files (don't worry, an introduction to podcasting will be provided in class). Podcasts can be structured in a number of different and creative ways (theme songs are always encouraged), but must include the required components specified in the assignment instructions.

Extra Credit Opportunities

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

Guest Lecture Summaries:

Students can complete, and post 1 additional guest lecture summary for **1% extra credit towards their final participation grade.**

Film Review:

On February 13, 2017, the Sports, Society, and Technology program is hosting a screening of Rebecca Carpenter's *Requiem for a Running Back* (2016) and a panel discussion following the film. Students can attend the screening and write a review of the film and panel for **1% extra credit toward their Module 2 Project grade.**

Course Expectations:

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. Please refer to T-Square for the most up-to-date schedule, readings, and assignments.

Week 1 (Jan 9 – 13)

Tuesday – Intro to Course

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

Reading: Knott (n.d.), “Critical reading toward critical writing”

NOTE: No discussion questions required for Tuesday/Thursday classes.

MODULE 1: Socio-historical Aspects of Sports

Week 2 (Jan 16 – 20)

Tuesday – Orientation at the Georgia Tech Archives

NOTE: This class is meant to help students start 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). The class will split into two groups who will

each get a 45 minute orientation from archives department head Jody Thompson. More details will be provided in class.

NOTE: No discussion questions required for Tuesday class.

Thursday – Georgia Tech Sports History

Readings: Jarvie (2006), “Sport, history, and social change”; Chastain (2011), Assigned Chapters

Week 3 (Jan 23 – 27)

Tuesday – GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Johnny Smith – Sports History and Biography

Reading: Smith (2015), “The resurrection”

Thursday – The Sociology of Sports

Reading: Gorn & Oriard (1990), “A sociological perspective of sport”; Guest (2015), “Fighting the great sport myth”

Week 4 (Jan 30 – Feb 3)

Tuesday – Quiz Review / Project Work Day

Thursday – Module 1 Exam

NOTE: No discussion questions required for Tuesday/Thursday classes.

MODULE 2: Sports Media and Sports Management

Week 5 (Feb 6 – 10)

Tuesday – Module Intro

Reading: Andrews (2006), “That’s sportainment!”

Thursday – Media Representations of Sports / Project Intro

Reading: Cooky, Messner, & Musto (2015), “It’s Dude Time!”; Martin & McDonald (2012), “Covering Women’s Sport?”

Week 6 (Feb 13 – 17)

Tuesday – GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Greg Zinman – Sports Film

Reading: Crosson (2013), “The Sports Film Genre”

Thursday – Sports and New Media

Reading: Billings (2014), “Power in the Reverberation”; Stewart & Snidarich (2015), “Fantasy sports and the culture of fandom”; Rhoden (2015), “Fantasy sports’ real crime”

NOTE: Georgia Tech Sports History assignment due.

Week 7 (Feb 20 – 23)

Tuesday – Sports Management

Reading: Stewart (2015), “Sport without management”

Thursday – GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Larry Keller – Sports and Public Policy

Readings: Sage (1990), “Power and ideology in intercollegiate sport”; Hruby (2016), “The NCAA lets college Olympians collect cash for gold, because amateurism is a self-serving lie”

Week 8 (Feb 27 – Mar 3)

Tuesday – GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Carla Gerona – Museum Studies

Reading: Snyder (1991), “Sociology of nostalgia”

Thursday – Sports Museums in Atlanta

Reading: Sterling (2016), “The College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience”

NOTE: No discussion questions required for Thursday class. Students are required to visit the George W. Mathews Jr. Athletic Heritage Center (on Georgia Tech campus) and complete the assigned worksheet.

MODULE 3: Local, National, and Global Sports

Week 9 (Mar 6 – 10)

Tuesday – Module and Project Intro

Reading: Scherer (2001), “Globalization and the construction of local particularities”; Youngblood (2011), “A new Jet age takes flight in Winnipeg;”

Thursday – GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Katie Hemsworth – Cultural Geographies of Sports

Reading: Bale (1988), “The place of ‘place’ in cultural studies of sports”

NOTE: Module 2 Media Analysis Assignment due.

Week 10 (Mar 13 – 17)

Tuesday – GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Mary McDonald – Sports Mega-Events

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

Thursday – Global Sports

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

WEEK 11 – SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)

Week 12 (Mar 27 – 31)

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.”

Thursday – Intro to Podcasting

NOTE: No discussion questions required for Thursday class.

MODULE 4: Sports Science and Technologies

Week 13 (Apr 3 – 7)

Tuesday – GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Mindy Millard-Stafford – Sports Medicine and Sports Science

Reading: Twietmeyer (2012), “What is Kinesiology?”

Thursday – Putting Sports Science in Context

Reading: Maguire (2004), “Challenging the sports-industrial complex”; Assigned *NBC Learn* Videos

Week 14 (Apr 10 – 14)

Tuesday – Computer Analytics and Big Data

Readings: Millington & Millington (2016), “‘The Datafication of Everything’;” Partnow (2016), “Moreyball, Goodhart’s Law, and the limits of analytics;”

Thursday – Sports and Neuroscience

Reading: Bachynski & Goldberg (2014), “Framing risks of mild traumatic brain injury in American football and ice hockey”

Week 15 (Apr 17 – 21)

Tuesday – Quiz Review / Course Conclusion

Thursday – Modules 3 and 4 Exam

NOTE: No discussion questions required for Tuesday/Thursday classes.

Week 16 (Apr 24 – 28)

Tuesday – Podcast Assignment Work Day

NOTE: Podcast assignment due **May 2 at 11:59pm.**