

SPT E J110

Sport and Entertainment in American Life

GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Credit Hours: | 3 |
| Instructor: | Haylee Uecker Mercado, Ph.d |
| Office: | Carolina Coliseum, Room 2026 |
| Contact Hours: | Tuesdays 10:00 am – 11:30 am. |
| Haylemercado (Skype Name) | Wednesdays 10:00 am – 11:00 a.m. (other days / times by appointment) |
| Phone: | 777-7087 (office) |
| E-mail: | mercadoh@mailbox.sc.edu |

- ***If you have specific questions pertaining to the course, assignments, projects, etc., place those questions on the FAQ discussion board on Blackboard.***
- ***Anyone may answer FAQs. Bonus points may be earned for complete, helpful answers.***
- ***Ask questions early and at appropriate times/days during the week.***
- ***Your questions will be answered within 24 hours if posted Sunday-Thursday.***
- ***Dr. Mercado will check email and course information via Blackboard during office hours and other convenient times when available.***
- ***Dr. Mercado does NOT consistently check e-mail on Saturday or Sunday.***
- ***If you have a question other than one that needs to be posted on the FAQ discussion board, it is best to contact Dr. Mercado via e-mail at mercadoh@mailbox.sc.edu and put **SPT E J110** in the subject line.***

Required Text: Woods, Ronald B., Social Issues in Sport Second Edition.
Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 2011.

Required Reading: 1. Any articles posted on course site on Blackboard

Recommended Reading: 1. *The State, USA Today* or another major daily paper.
2. *Sports Business Journal*

Notes and some class announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for checking Blackboard on a daily basis for important class information.

Additional library and handout readings may be assigned. In addition, students are expected to stay informed on current issues which may be pertinent to the course material. This may be accomplished by reading current newspapers and magazines such as *The State, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, Time, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, etc.*

Course Description

Sport and Entertainment in American Life (3 hours). The American sport and entertainment enterprise; background, influences and trends; collegiate and professional sport organizations; ownership and unionization; media portrayals. This course is open to majors and non-majors.

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes)

1. Students will examine how sport influences and is influenced by society.
2. Students will critically reflect upon the positive and negative consequences of sport in our society.
3. Students will examine the reciprocal relationship between sport and socialization, economics, and religion.
4. Students will recognize the relationship between topics studied in class and examples observed in current sport and entertainment events.

Course Delivery (Technology Requirements)

This course will be delivered online through the university blackboard site. Blackboard is an online software tool which allows me to teach your entire course on the Web. You can do all of the following:

- View important announcements and your instructor's biographical and contact information
- Participate in online discussions and in small group activities
- Access course materials and resources on the Web
- Submit your assignments, take on-line tests and quizzes, and check your grades
- View lectures and films

Software Requirements: A Java applet capable browser, such as Internet Explorer (preferred), Firefox, or Netscape. Web camera and microphone compatible with your home computer would be helpful for online communication.

Computer access: If you don't have a computer at home, Web access is available at sites, University College Centers, USC campuses, and many public libraries.

***Please note that I am your instructor and NOT an IT expert, so please direct all questions to the appropriate Blackboard administrators if there is a problem.**

NOTE ABOUT YOU AND THIS COURSE

Online learning, you will find, is quite different than classroom learning. It requires different attitudes, responsibilities, and communication skills.

Students learn best in quite different ways. One of the advantages of the online format of the course is that it allows students to approach the course in ways that suit their personal styles and preferences. In classrooms, instructors are inclined to teach either as they themselves were taught, or as they think "the average student" prefers. Online, all of the instructor-presented class material is laid out at once, and students can do with it whatever they prefer in order to learn in as personal and unique a fashion as possible.

This course by design specifically accommodates different learning styles by involving a variety of components, including text, video clips, self-check quizzes, reference lists, online discussion, and a paper. Since you are probably used to learning more or less as prescribed or required by a classroom teacher and are not used to designing your own learning strategy, it might take a little time to do that and to settle into a comfortable routine. I think you'll find that as you figure out on your own how to learn the material, everything will fall into place.

Backing Up Assignments:

It is important to keep a back up copy of all assignments, projects, etc. If for any reason Blackboard is down, email Dr. Mercado your assignment, project, etc. by the due date. **NO assignments will be accepted late.** Make sure you keep a back up copy of your work.

Time Allocation

The instructional time spent in this course will vary depending on your knowledge in the area. A minimum of approximately 35 hours (2100 minutes) will be necessary for this course. You may spend additional time working on the written analyses, reports, projects, and other assignments.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

If you have any special needs as addressed by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need course materials in alternative formats, please notify Dr. Mercado so proper University of South Carolina services can be provided. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Course Assessment

Assessment is a critical part of learning. I will assess your understanding of the subject matter, your ability to analyze, your ability to present your views and yourself effectively, and your effort and dedication. I will make every effort to return all work promptly and with comments designed to help you learn and understand. **If you do not understand my comments or my numerical assessment of your work you should seek clarification.** You will have the opportunity throughout the semester to earn assessment points as specified below. Your accumulation of assessment points will determine your final position as follows:

| Assignment | Maximum Points Per Assignment |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Creation of Homepage/Edit Personal Information | 5 |
| Exams (2) | 200 (2 at 50 points each) |
| Paper | 25 |
| Short Answer Essays | 30 (3 at 10 points each) |
| Discussion Board | 40 (4 at 10 points each) |
| TOTAL POINTS | 300 |
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| Assessment Points Required | Grade |
| 270-300 | A |
| 261 – 269 | B+ |
| 240-260 | B |
| 231– 240 | C+ |
| 210-230 | C |
| 201-209 | D+ |
| 180-200 | D |
| <179 | F |
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Exams (50 points each)

Exams will be designed to assess your comprehension of key issues, concepts, and principles. Test questions may include definitions, multiple choice, short answers and short essays.

Two examinations, made up of 50 questions, each will be administered during the course of the semester. Both tests will be administered via Blackboard within the Test Module(s) and you will be given 90 minutes to complete each exam. Failure to complete during pre-determined examination sessions without **PRIOR** instructor approval will result in a grade of zero for that examination. There will be very few reasons for being excused from a scheduled exam.

Essays (10 points each)

On 3 occasions, you will be asked to write a short essay relating to the topic scheduled for discussion that day. The purpose is to help you learn to organize your thoughts quickly and present them effectively. Points will be awarded primarily for demonstrating analysis and synthesis of concepts. Please see the Essay Rubric within the Essay post on Blackboard.

Paper (25 points)

You are required to watch one of the pre-selected movies and conduct a critical analysis of what was happening in the world/nation at the current time and how the sport played a significant role

in shaping or brining the nation/world together or creating a national divide. You will prepare a 3 to 4 page written critique (1" margins and times roman font) incorporating concepts from class readings and discussions.

5 pts. Proper page set up and length (double spacing (even between paragraphs), margins, at least 3 FULL pages not including title, name, class etc) if not the full 3 take off 5 points per page (2.5 per ½)

15 pts. Correct Grammar, no misspellings, flow of paper, **intro** and **conclusion**. (-0.25 for each spelling and grammar error; -2.5 for no intro or conclusion)

20 pts. A critical analysis of the movie, not a summary. The intro should include what was happening in the nation/world at the time as well as a BRIEF summary of the movie. The bulk of the paper should analyze how the events at the time influenced the sporting event or how the sporting event influenced the world by using concepts from your weekly readings, discussions or other research done by the student. The conclusion should summarize the paper and your thoughts on the sporting event in historical terms (no more than 1 paragraph).

Discussion Board (10 points each)

You will be required to participate in four (4) discussion board activities as noted in the assignment schedule below. Be sure to read the instructions for each discussion board assignment as they will change. Please see the Discussion Board Rubric within the Essay post on Blackboard.

SPTE J110 – SPORT & ENTERTAINMENT IN AMERICAN LIFE
CLASS SCHEDULE

Assignments, Projects, and Instructions

Complete Module #1 (See Module #1 under the Modules Tab on Blackboard)

All assignments are due January 2nd by 5:00 p.m.

NO EXCEPTIONS

2. Getting to Know You Wiki:

Log on to Blackboard:

- Click on Module 1
- Click on Introduction
- Upload an appropriate picture of yourself or graphic representing your personality.
- Enter appropriate information based on the following questions:
 - Where did you grow up? What other information would you like to share about your previous/current jobs, family life, and/or activities/hobbies?
 - What achievement(s) has/have given you the greatest personal satisfaction?
 - What is the most important thing you hope to get out of this class?
 - Where you would like to be professionally and personally five years from now?

Reminder: This is an academic course and your page must reflect this. Please do not use the same language you use on facebook, twitter, text messaging, email, etc. This is a professional representation of you. Please take the time to create a formal homepage for others to see and get to know you on an academic and professional level.

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3. Discussion Board Posting #1 : Commonalities

Once you have created your own Wiki, review ALL Wiki pages of your peers. On the Discussion Board labeled Commonalities Noted from Wikis, write 2 paragraphs describing the commonalities you have with 2 peers in this class.

4. Read Chapters 1 and 2 (and go through Powerpoints) on the Sociology of Sport

Complete Module #2

All assignments are due January 4th by 5:00 p.m.
NO EXCEPTIONS

1 Read Chapters 3-5 (and go through Powerpoints) on Sport Trends and Issues

2. Short Answer Essay #1:

Study the Table 3.1 located on page 38 in your text and develop at least 3 general trends about participation in the United States. Pay particular attention to changes that have occurred over a seven year period rather than a one-year change. Then suggest some possible factors that may have affected the changes in popularity of certain activities using information described in your text as well as outside sources. The paper should be at least 2 FULL pages in length with only your first and last name as a header.

OR

Interview three college athletes: one who plays a varsity sport, one who plays a club sport, and one who plays an intramural or a recreational sport. Ask them at least 5 questions about their experiences and reasons for participation in their particular sport. Compare and contrast their answers to the reasons for participation and athletic performance goals. . The paper should be at least 2 FULL pages in length with only your first and last name as a header and include the gender, sport, and questions asked of each participant.

*Please note you must cite ALL of your sources (including the text) in APA format. To receive full credit you must back up all "suggestions" with previous research as recommended in Chapter

**Prepare in Microsoft compatible Word Document (save as lastname_essay1; example Mercado_essay1) and post to Essay #1

- Click on Essay #1 Tab in Module 2
- Beside the Attach local file select BROWSE
- Find the file on your computer and hit OPEN
- Click SUBMIT on the bottom right corner of the screen.

Complete Module #3

All assignments are due January 7th by 5:00 p.m.
NO EXCEPTIONS

1. Read Chapters 6-9 (and go through Powerpoints) on Sport as an Institution

2. Complete Discussion Board Posting #2: Sport as an Institution

**TEST #1 (Chapters 1-9) –
Found in Exam 1 Module
You will have 90 minutes to complete
Due January 10th by 5:00 pm**

Complete Module #4

All assignments are due January 13th by 5:00 p.m.
NO EXCEPTIONS

1. Read Chapters 11-15 (and go through Powerpoints) on Sport and Culture

2. Discussion Board Posting #3: Sport and Culture

3. Short Answer Essay #3

Find 5 print articles of interviews with athletes and coaches that reference religion. Identify and tabulate the amount of religious references regarding performance. Categorize the comments into themes such as attributing success to higher powers. How do comments for losses differ from those for successes in terms of religion? (2 pages, include the link to each of the articles at the end of the paper)

OR

Investigate previous political boycotts of at least **3** sporting events. Investigate the political forces involved, the factors leading up to the boycott, those athletes who were affected, and the consequences of the boycott. (2 pages and include link to articles and sources used at the end of your paper)

***Please note you must cite ALL of your sources (including the text) in APA format.**

****Prepare in Word Document (save as lastname_essay3; example Mercado_essay3_topic chosen) and post to Essay #3**

Click on Module 4

Click on Essay #3

Beside the Attach local file select BROWSE

Find the file on your computer and hit OPEN

Click SUBMIT on the bottom right corner of the screen.

Complete Module #5

**All assignments are due January 18th by 5:00 p.m.
NO EXCEPTIONS**

1. Read Chapters, 16-20 (and go through Powerpoints) on Sport and Culture Part 2

2. Discussion Board Posting #4: Sport and Culture 2

Complete Movie Paper

You are required to watch one of the pre-selected movies and conduct a critical analysis of what was happening in the world/nation at the current time and how the sport played a significant role in shaping or bringing the nation/world together or creating a national divide. You will prepare a 3 to 4 page written critique (1" margins and times roman font) incorporating concepts from class readings and discussions.

5 pts. Proper page set up and length (double spacing (even between paragraphs), margins, at least 3 FULL pages not including title, name, class etc) if not the full 3 take off 5 points per page (2.5 per ½)

15 pts. Correct Grammar, no misspellings, flow of paper, **intro** and **conclusion**. (-0.25 for each spelling and grammar error; -2.5 for no intro or conclusion)

20 pts. A critical analysis of the movie, not a summary. The intro should include what was happening in the nation/world at the time as well as a BRIEF summary of the movie. The bulk of the paper should analyze how the events at the time influenced the sporting event or how the sporting event influenced the world by using concepts from your weekly readings, discussions or other research done by the student. The conclusion should summarize the paper and your thoughts on the sporting event in historical terms (no more than 1 paragraph).

****Prepare in Word Document (save as lastname_paper1; example Mercado_paper1) and post to Paper #1**

- **Click on Module 5**
- **Click on Paper #1**
- **Beside the Attach local file select BROWSE**
- **Find the file on your computer and hit OPEN**
- **Click SUBMIT on the bottom right corner of the screen.**

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| <p>TEST #2 (Chapters 10-20)–Found in Exam #2 Module Tab Found in Exam 1 Module You will have 90 minutes to complete Due January 19th by 5 pm</p> | |
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