



SAM 3020: Sociology of Sport

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SAM 3020: Sociology of Sport Course Syllabus

Course Information:



Division: Kinesiology, Health, and Sport Studies
Program Area: Sport Management & Administration
Course Title: Sociology of Sport
Course #: SAM 3020, section 002
Term/Year: Winter, 2024
Course Format: Hybrid: **Tuesday** (asynchronous) **online** via [Canvas](#)
Thursday class meets from **11:30-12:45 in 200 Education**

Faculty Contact Information:

Instructor:
Office Address:
Office Hours:
Phone:
Email:
Virtual Meeting:
Meeting Scheduler:

Course Materials:

No textbooks are required for this course. All course content and related readings will be posted to Canvas.

Course Description:

Bulletin Description: *Satisfies General Education Requirement: Diversity Equity Inclusion Inquiry.* Examines the ways in which sports are entangled in social, cultural, political, and economic forces. Students will systematically investigate the complex connections among sports, society, and cultures.

Course Description: Sport plays a pervasive role in most of our lives as fans, participants, and consumers. This course will explore sport in our society from a critical perspective, focusing specifically on inequalities in gender, race, class, and power. This class will concurrently examine sport as a social mirror that reflects status inequalities as well as the role of sport in perpetuating them.

Course Learning Outcomes:

This course is approved for a general education “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” (DEI) credit, thus, the learning outcomes listed here are aligned with the university’s general education DEI outcomes. By the end of the semester, learners in this course will be able to:



Learning Outcome	How this will be assessed:
LO1: Explain current diversity, equity, or inclusion issues within the context of U.S. history, institutions, practices, or policies, specifically within the sport and exercise industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Sociology Current Event Presentation • Application Assignment #4: “Edge of Sports” 3-Minute Article Review
LO2: Explain how cultural values and prejudices influence individual or group behavior within the sport and exercise industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Assignment #1: “Sportography” PechaKucha
LO3: Explain the ethical and moral issues related to diversity, equity, or inclusion present in complex domestic (U.S.) situations, specifically within the sport and exercise industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Assignment #2: “Faith, Fordson, & Football” Film Review
LO4: Explain strategies that promote diversity, equity, or inclusion at the local or national level within the sport and exercise industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Assignment #3: “Making Changes” Infographic
LO5: Examine methods for asking and answering sociologically-focused questions about how social issues impact the organization, participation, promotion, and business of the sport and exercise industry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Sociology Research Paper

Undergraduate Grading System:

A	93-100	C	74-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-73
B+	88-89	D+	67-69
B	84-87	D	63-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	<60

Course Assignments:

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

1. **Class Attendance/Participation** (28 points): This class doesn't work without you! As a result, class attendance is required. This class is offered in a hybrid format – so we'll meet asynchronously online on Tuesdays and in person on Thursdays. “Attendance and participation” refer to both meeting types. I keep a running list of your attendance (see the “Attendance Tracker” link in Canvas) so you are clear of how many absences you have as we progress through the semester. Each day of class is worth 1 point.
2. **Current Event Discussion Leader** (7 points): During each in-person class session, students will take a turn leading a ~3-5-minute discussion on a sport industry current event of their choosing. Students should start with a short summary of the issue including (1) background information on the issue, (2) a connection to the sociology-focused content of class, and (3) discussion of the implications of the event on people/groups/industry/society. Please see the assignment description in Canvas for more information and a sample discussion outline.

3. **Sport Sociology Application Assignments** (10 points each/40 total points): Throughout this course, we'll introduce various ways to apply our sport sociology knowledge through assignments designed for you to think reflexively, practically, and theoretically about the course content.
 - a. Application Assignment #1: Sportography Pecha Kucha
 - b. Application Assignment #2: "Faith, Fordson, and Football" Film Review
 - c. Application Assignment #3: 3-Minute Article Review
 - d. Application Assignment #4: Making Changes Infographic

4. **Progressive Research Paper** (25 points total): An important part of the study of sport sociology is learning how to ask good questions about *why* and *how* things happen in sport. To practice this skill, we'll conduct a progressive research project in which we identify a sociologically-focused question we want to explore, engage in qualitative methodology to attempt to answer that question, and analyze the data we collect as a class. At the end of the term, you'll pull together all of this work to draft a research paper that proposes a relevant research question, examines scholarly sources to identify important themes in the current literature, and reports on our collective findings. Please see the full assignment description in Canvas for more information, helpful writing strategies, and an assessment rubric.
 - a. Part 1: Data Collection (5 points)
 - b. Part 2: Data Analysis (5 points)
 - c. Final Research Paper (15 points)

Class Schedule:

(*Adjustments may be made during the semester as necessary. Please refer to Canvas for more detailed descriptions of assignments).

Week	Dates	Topic/Format	What's due?
1	Tuesday, January 9	Topic: Course Introduction Tuesday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to class! 11:30-12:45 in 200 EDU. • Syllabus review & course introduction 	
	Thursday, January 11	Thursday: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to class! 11:30-12:45 in 200 EDU. • Introduction to the field of sport sociology – how do we ask sociologically-focused questions? 	
2	Tuesday, January 16	Topic: The Sociology of Sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday: Review "The Sociology of Sport" module in Canvas; complete attendance verification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Assignment due by class time on Thursday, 1/18.
	Thursday, January 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday: Class meets in 200 Edu. 	



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Tuesday,
January 23

Thursday,
January 25

Topic: Sport Socialization

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Sport Socialization” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.
- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 1/25.**

4

Tuesday,
January 30

Thursday,
February 1

Topic: Sports in Education

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Sports in HS & College” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.
- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 2/1.**
- Application Assignment #1 due: **Thursday, 2/1 by midnight (in Canvas).**

5

Tuesday,
February 6

Thursday,
February 8

Topic: Socioeconomics and Sport

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Sports & Socioeconomics” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.
- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 2/8.**

6

Tuesday,
February 13

Thursday,
February 15

Topic: Asking Sociologically-Focused Questions, Part 1

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Qualitative Research Methods” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.
- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 2/15.**
- Application Assignment #2 due: **Thursday 2/15 by midnight (in Canvas)**

7

Tuesday,
February 20

Thursday,
February 22

Topic: Race, Ethnicity and Sport

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Race and Sport” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.
- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 2/22.**

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Tuesday,
February 27

Thursday,
February 29

Topic: Race, Ethnicity and Sport, continued

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Race and Sport” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.
- Attendance Assignment due by class time on **Thursday, 2/29.**

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Tuesday,
March 5

Thursday,
March 7

Topic: Gender, Sexuality and Sport

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Gender and Sport” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.
- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 3/7.**
- Progressive Research Paper, Part 1 due:

**Thursday, 3/7 by
midnight (in Canvas).**

10
Tuesday,
March 12
Thursday,
March 14
No Class – Enjoy Spring Break!

11
Tuesday,
March 19
Thursday,
March 21
**Topic: Asking Sociologically-Focused
Questions, Part 2**

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Analyzing Your Qualitative Data” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.

- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 3/21.**

12
Tuesday,
March 26
Thursday,
March 28
Topic: Deviance, Violence and Sport

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Deviance in Sport” information in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.

- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 3/28.**
- Application Assignment #3 due: **Tuesday, 3/28 by midnight (in Canvas)**

13
Tuesday,
April 2
Thursday,
April 4
Topic: Media and Sports

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Sports and Media” information in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.

- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, November 16.**
- Progressive Research Paper, Part 2 due **Thursday, 4/4 by midnight (in Canvas)**

14
Tuesday,
April 9
Thursday,
April 11
Topic: Politics, Religion and Sports

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Sports and Politics” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.

- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 4/11.**
- Application Assignment #4 due: **Thursday, 4/11 by midnight (in Canvas)**

15
Tuesday,
April 16
Thursday,
April 18
**Topic: Sport Sociology in Action – What do
we do with our sociological knowledge?**

- **Tuesday:** Review the “Sport Sociology in Action” module in Canvas; complete attendance verification.
- **Thursday:** Class meets in 200 Edu.

- Attendance Assignment due by **class time on Thursday, 4/18.**

Research paper due in Canvas by midnight on Monday, April 22.

Class Policies:

1. **Be respectful.**

- a. I appreciate you contributing to our classroom learning community, positively interacting with your peers, and submitting your work on time. This is respectful to the class and to your instructor. I also expect that your respect will translate to our interpersonal interactions - rude, divisive, or disruptive behavior won't be permitted in our classroom (virtual or in-person). You can disagree with your classmates or your instructor without being disagreeable. If you have questions about this policy, please speak with me directly for clarification.
- b. **Attending class** – and showing up on time – is also respectful to your classmates and instructor. I expect that since we're only meeting once a week that you'll make an effort to attend class. Arriving to class late is disruptive for everyone – but I'd rather you come to class than not, so if you're coming in late, please come in quietly. If tardiness becomes a problem, it may impact your overall attendance grade; we'll have a conversation about your attendance before that happens. Each class session – both in person and online – counts towards your attendance in this class. Not submitting the attendance assignment each week counts as an absence. Each class period – in person and online – is worth 1 point toward your overall grade. You get two (2) “free” absences that don't count against your overall grade for you to use in any way that you may need.
- c. **Late work** - Turning your work in on time is also respectful, and I expect you to do so. As a general rule, I make sure to afford you plenty of time to complete the assignments in this class. If you miss a deadline, your total score will be impacted by 10% each day that the assignment is late. I will only take late work up to five (5) days after the posted deadline. That said, I'm a reasonable person who understands that the complicated lives of college students often requires leniency – so if you have an issue, contact me and we can talk about an appropriate solution. If you have an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible (ideally, before an assignment is due) and we can discuss your specific situation.

2. **Communicate with me.**

- a. One of the best things that you can do to position yourself to be successful in this course is to maintain communication with me. Let me be clear: **I want you to communicate with me.** It's my job to support you and help you succeed. If you're experiencing challenges that will impact your success in this class but I don't know about them, I can't be of much help.
- b. I always aim to respond to emails and voicemails as soon as I'm able. And, I'm usually pretty quick on my turnaround during business hours. However, if you save your questions about something due at midnight for 11:30, you'll probably be out of luck.
- c. I've provided my cell phone in this syllabus – feel free to use it for appropriate class-related inquiries. But, also keep in mind that outside of being a teacher, I have a number of personal commitments. So, let's try to maintain (mostly) professional working hours for our communication (i.e. don't text me at midnight!). 😊

3. **Be professional.**

- a. The work you submit is a reflection of you and your professionalism. I'll provide detailed assignment descriptions and rubrics to help you understand my expectations; however, your work will be evaluated on factors like content, creativity, and writing skills and how effectively you met the assignment specifications. It's often useful to use technology tools like [Grammarly](#) or take advantage of the WSU student success resources to help support your professional writing skills.
- b. **Incomplete grades** - Sometimes, we find ourselves in situations where we aren't able to fulfill our responsibilities, despite our best intentions. If serious and infrequent

circumstances prevent you from completing coursework within the term, we may be able to consider an “incomplete” (an “I” grade). It’s important to note that we give incompletes infrequently – and missing work/absences and poor class performance typically don’t warrant an “I” grade. If an incomplete is deemed appropriate, you’ll need to work with your course instructor to determine a reasonable plan for completing the coursework. If the terms of the incomplete grade are not met, an “I” grade will automatically turn into an “F” grade after one calendar year.

Enrollment/ Withdrawal Policy:

In the first two weeks of the term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. The last day to withdraw and receive tuition cancellation is **Monday, January 22, 2024**. After the end of the second week there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request on Academics. Students who withdraw from a course after the end of the 4th week of class will receive a grade of WP, WF, or WN:

- WP will be awarded if the student is passing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
- WF will be awarded if the student is failing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
- WN will be awarded if no materials have been submitted so there is no basis for a grade

No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the tenth week and beyond will receive a grade. The last day to withdraw from classes for the fall term is **Monday, March 25, 2024**.

Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found on WSU’s [registration site](#).

Technology Requirements and Accessibility Information:

The Sport Management & Administration programs are committed to ensuring that the course content is accessible for all students. Accessibility provides helpful pathways for using materials and learning opportunities for all WSU students, including international students, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ students. A number of campus offices and programs can aid with [accessibility](#), [software options](#) (like screen readers, and speech-to-text programs), [computer and IT usage](#), support for [international students](#), and [LGBTQ+ resources](#).

Below, please find a link to the various technology you may use in this course with the affiliated accessibility statements. Should you desire additional assistance or have accessibility questions, please contact your instructor.

Technology	Accessibility Statement Link
Canvas LMS	http://www.instructure.com/canvas_vpat
Adobe Acrobat Reader	http://www.adobe.com/accessibility.html
Microsoft Office	https://www.microsoft.com/enable/
YouTube	https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/189278
FlipGrid	https://help.flipgrid.com/hc/en-us/articles/115004848574-Flipgrid-and-Accessibility
Perusall	https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/articles/360033993894-Accessibility-statement
Zoom	https://zoom.us/accessibility

Student Disabilities Services:

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with [Student Disability Services](#) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located in the Adamany Undergraduate Library, and can be reached at 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 (videophone use only). Once your accommodation is in place, someone can meet with you privately to discuss your special needs. Students who are registered with Student Disability Services and who are eligible for alternate testing accommodations (such as extended test time and/or a distraction-reduced environment) should present the required test permit to the professor at least one week in advance of the exam.

Student Services:

- The Academic Success Center (1600 Undergraduate Library) assists students with content in select courses and in strengthening study skills. Visit www.success.wayne.edu for schedules and information on study skills workshops, tutoring and supplemental instruction (primarily in 1000 and 2000 level courses).
- The Writing Research and Technology Zone is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library and provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge. Visit <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing> to obtain information on tutors, appointments, and the type of help they can provide.
- **Library research assistance:** Working on a research assignment, paper or project? Trying to figure out how to collect, organize and cite your sources? Wayne State librarians provide on-campus or online personalized help. Contact them at <http://library.wayne.edu/consult>

Academic Dishonesty – Plagiarism and Cheating:

Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct:

<https://doso.wayne.edu/conduct/student>

Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include: (a) copying from another student's test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam.
- **Fabrication:** Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.
- **Plagiarism:** To take and use another's words or ideas as one's own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons; (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

- College of Education policy on plagiarism: The College of Education has a “zero tolerance” approach to plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism includes copying material (any more than 5 consecutive words) from outside texts or presenting outside information as if it were your own by not crediting authors through citations. It can be deliberate or unintended. Students are advised to think carefully and thoroughly, ask for help from instructors if it is needed, and make smart decisions about their academic work.
 - **Check your work before submitting!** Wayne State University has developed a [Student Plagiarism Check Canvas site](#). On this self-enroll site, students can submit draft versions of papers to our plagiarism software, Unicheck, in order to check their own work and improve their understanding of how to integrate sources and enter scholarly conversations through their writing. The Unicheck Report provides students the opportunity to review and improve their paper or project before submitting them for grading in their Canvas course.
- Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student’s access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an un-administered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

Religious Observance Policy:

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations represented in the University student body and staff, the Wayne State University calendar makes no provision for religious holidays. It is University policy, however, to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students who find that their classes or examinations involve conflicts with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that alternative arrangements as suitable as possible may be arranged.

Title IX and Sexual Misconduct:

Wayne State University is committed to upholding standards that promote respect and human dignity in an environment that fosters academic excellence and professionalism. Sexual misconduct and relationship violence in any form are counter to the University’s mission and core values, violate university policies, and may also violate federal and state law. Faculty members are considered “Responsible Employees” and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and relationships violence. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking or sexual harassment, please visit TitleIX.wayne.edu to learn more about resources and support on campus and in the local community.