

**BELLEVUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  

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**SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**

**ETHN 200/Sports and Culture**

**Syllabus**

*“I drop the mic  
and strike the Heisman pose...”*

--J-Ro

**Instructor:** Dr. Daudi Abe  
**Contact:** (425) 546-2331  
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**Quarter:** Fall 2008  
**Office:** By appointment

**Course Description:** This course provides a forum for critical analysis of the cultural framework of sports and the world around it. The rise in popularity of sports and those associated with it has given profound mainstream influence to extremely diverse groups and individuals that historically have had little or none. The resulting cultural and intercultural interactions that play out will be used as valuable learning resources in the continued effort to foster greater understanding. Multiple perspectives on the topic of sports will be examined to enhance the discourse of the class.

**Course Objective:** The cultural aspect of sports has been an important part of the overall culture of the United States for well over one hundred years. At the same time, a struggle for equality has been played out as billions of fans watched, cheered, and booed. This course strives to deconstruct and understand how games, struggle, and change have interacted to affect our world.

**Student Outcomes:** The United States is highly unique in the incredible amount of racial, ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity it possesses. Thus, it is imperative that its citizens to possess the willingness and ability to relate to and understand individuals with different backgrounds. The universal nature of what defines sport makes it an ideal conceptual tool to explore the dynamics of cultural interaction within society at large. A successful student in this course will:

1. Increase his or her skill development in critical thinking, reading, and writing.
2. Further their knowledge base of social issues and ideas within an increased frame of reference.
3. Develop the ability to sort, decode, and understand cultural and intercultural messages.
4. Become familiar with the role, impact, and influence of sports in society.
5. Understand their own place as a potential difference maker and positive contributor in the world.

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES**

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|--------------------------------------|------------|
| ▪ Class Discussion and Participation | 200 points |
| ▪ Sports Autobiography               | 100 points |
| ▪ Response/Reflection Papers         | 200 points |
| ▪ Midterm Examination                | 200 points |
| ▪ Final Paper                        | 200 points |
| ▪ Final Paper Presentation           | 100 points |

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Sports Autobiography	4-6 pages
Response/Reflection Papers	2-4 pages
Midterm Examination	Mid-Quarter
Final Research Paper	10-15 pages
Final Research Paper Presentation	End of quarter

**1. Class Discussion and Participation:** All students are expected to maintain a regular presence in the course. Failure to do so will have an adverse affect on a student's ability to remain informed and connected to the inner workings of the course. During the class it is the student's responsibility to keep a critical eye and ear tuned to the materials presented and topics discussed. **Active engagement with the curriculum and each other in discussion threads on a weekly basis is required.**

NOTE: Assigned readings should be completed in advance of the time they appear on the course calendar and quoted whenever possible in discussion. Backing your view with established research and writings makes your point that much stronger. Reading preparedness on the part of students contributes to richer understanding of lectures and deeper class discussions.

**2. Sports Autobiography:** Prepare a 4 to 6 page autobiography of the role that sports have played in your personal and/or family history. Start by describing your relationship with sports and how it has informed your attitudes, beliefs, and values. Include any significant moments or events in your life, either as a participant or spectator that have been related to sports.

Finish by discussing how these factors have influenced who and where you are today. Since you are the expert on this topic, think broadly while crafting these descriptions.

**3. Response/Reflection Papers:** Throughout the quarter there will be materials focusing on past, current, and future issues involving the culture of sports, as well as related points. The assigned written responses to these portions of the curriculum will generally range between 2-4 pages. Instead of just being a summary, these assignments are exercises in critical evaluation and discussion on the part of the student. Again, it is important to include examples or quotes from the course readings whenever possible to help make the argument.

NOTE: Discussion & reflection assignment for Week 4 will require viewing the film "When We Were Kings."

**4. Midterm Examination:** The mid-term will consist of a 5-7 page essay based on your experience at a live sporting event. This event can be anything from a little league soccer match to a Seahawks football game. The key for this assignment will be for you to view this event through the lens of culture as discussed in Sections 1 & 2 of the Course Reading Packet.

**5. Final Paper:** Instead of a final exam, students will complete a 10-to15-page research paper that examines and critically evaluates an element or issue relevant to sports or the culture of sports. The possibility of subject matter is wide and vast, which allows a tremendous amount of flexibility in deciding which way to go with this project. The topic must be phrased in the form of a research question, to which your paper will be the answer. **Final research questions must be cleared through the instructor.** A general outline for this paper is included in this syllabus.

NOTE: This assignment should be written in a formal academic, third person style.

**6. Final Paper Presentation:** A 1-page abstract/summary will serve as a 'presentation' of your paper to the entire class and will be due at the beginning of the final week. This portion of the course will be devoted to examining and discussing your work.

All assignments must be typed, double spaced, spell checked, stapled, and submitted in a timely manner. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made.

All written assignments must have the following headings:

**Student's Full Name**  
**Course Title and Number**  
**Date Submitted**

**A short, concise, and meaningful title**

**Americans with Disabilities Act: If you need course adaptations or accommodation because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with your instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with your instructor as soon as possible.**

**Required Materials:**

1. Zirin, D. (2005) What's my name, fool? Haymarket.
2. Course Reading Packet (available in book store)

## Course Calendar

### WEEK 1:

**Reading:** “Sports as a Microcosm of Society”

**Assignment:** Sports Autobiography

### WEEK 2:

**Reading:** Reading Packet Sections 1 & 2

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #1: Culture & Communication

### WEEK 3:

**Reading:** Zirin Chapters 2 & 4

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #2: Jackie Robinson

### WEEK 4:

**Reading:** Zirin Chapter 3 / Reading Packet Section 3

**Video:** “When We Were Kings”

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #3: Float Like A Butterfly

### WEEK 5:

**Reading:** Reading Packet Section 4

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #4: Juice on the Loose

### WEEK 6:

**Assignment:** Mid-Term & Tentative Topics for Final Research Paper

### WEEK 7:

**Reading:** Zirin Chapter 9 / Reading Packet Section 5

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #5: Two-Three

### WEEK 8:

**Reading:** Zirin Chapter 8 / “The WNBA’s Delicate Balancing Act” by Jayda Evans

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #6: Gender, Sexuality & Sports

### WEEK 9:

**Reading:** Reading Packet Section 6 / “Big Time College Sports: Contradictions, Crises, and Consequences” by D. Stanley Eitzen

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #7: Amateur Status

### WEEK 10:

**Reading:** “Televised Sport & the (Anti)Sociological Imagination” by Dan C. Hilliard

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #8: Critical Evaluation of a Sports Media Source

### WEEK 11:

**Assignment:** Final Research Paper Presentation & Discussion

## OUTLINE FOR FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

### **Title of Your Research Project**

#### Section 1: Introduction/Personal Statement/Research Question

- Discuss what drew you to this topic.
- Explain why this is an important or relevant topic to examine.
- What is your research question?

#### Section 2: Literature/Media Review

- **you must include at least 5 sources; only 2 may be web-based**
- What do the established opinions of others say about the background of your topic?
- What are the tones of these sources? (pro, con)
- What was the amount of material available on this topic?

#### Section 3: Evaluation, Discussion, and Conclusion

- What is the current state of the topic you have researched?
- What does the future look like for your topic?
- Who or what are the dominant factors that will play important roles in your topic down the road?
- What new knowledge has come from this research?

#### Section 5: Bibliography/List of References

- List all sources for quotations, statistics and figures, and other referenced information included in the research paper.

**ETHN 200: Sports & Culture  
Final Research Project**

**Criteria used for evaluating Final Research Paper**

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1. The extent to which your paper is organized according to the outline provided in the course syllabus.

Rating      1      2      3      4

2. The extent to which your paper incorporates outside research, theory, and/or established opinions of others.

Rating      1      2      3      4

3. The extent to which you critically discuss and review your selected topic.

Rating      1      2      3      4

4. The extent to which you cite and give credit for the ideas of the authors and researchers that are incorporated into your paper.

Rating      1      2      3      4

5. The extent to which your paper is properly presented (including a cover page, use of 12-point font, double spacing, use of correct grammar, proofing, and spelling).

Rating      1      2      3      4



# ETHN 200: Sports and Culture

## Grade Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Qtr/Year \_\_\_\_\_

1. Class Discussion and Participation \_\_\_\_\_ 200 points

2. Sports Autobiography \_\_\_\_\_ 100 points

3. Reflection/Response Papers \_\_\_\_\_ 200 points

4. Midterm Examination \_\_\_\_\_ 200 points

5. Final Research Paper \_\_\_\_\_ 200 points

6. Final Paper Presentation \_\_\_\_\_ 100 points

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_ 1000 points

**FINAL GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**  
**Revised Summer 2007**

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DSS accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Support Services, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

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*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (A251), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*