

BELLEVUE COLLEGE  
SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC AND CULTURAL STUDIES

ETHN 200: Sports and Culture

**Syllabus**

“Beyond the walls of intelligence

life is defined...”

--Nas

**Instructor:** Dr. Daudi Abe

**Quarter:** Winter 2010

**Contact:** (425) 546-2331

**Office:** D-110

[dabe@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:dabe@bellevuecollege.edu)

**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 VALUES

• Class Discussion and Participation	200 points
• Sports Autobiography	100 points
• Reflection Papers	300 points
• Midterm Essay	150 points
• Final Paper	150 points
• Final Paper Presentation	100 points

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

**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 4-6 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. In addition, be sure to include references to the aspects of culture discussed in the course reading as they apply to your cultural autobiography within the context of 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. 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. It is expected that examples or quotes from the course readings be included in these papers to help back up the points being made.

**4. Midterm Exam:** Material for the mid-term exam will be drawn from course readings and lectures. Exam will be "open-note" and consist of short answer, fill in the blank and a brief essay question.

**5. Final Research Paper:** The mid-term will consist of a 6-10 page essay based on your experience at a live sporting event chosen and SPECIFICALLY ATTENDED with this assignment in mind. This event can be any level in any sport from little league to professional. The key for this assignment will be for you to view and

write about this event through the lens of culture as discussed in the Course Readings. The inclusion of quotes and citations from these articles when writing this paper is a requirement.

**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 during the final week of the quarter. This assignment 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**

**Required Materials:**

1. Zirin, D. (2005) What’s my name, fool? Haymarket.
2. Course Reading Packet (both items available on course website)

## COURSE CALENDAR

### WEEK 1:

**Readings:** Reading Packet Section 1

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

### WEEK 2:

**Reading:** Reading Packet Section 2

**Assignment:** Sports Autobiography

### WEEK 3:

**Reading:** Zirin Chapters 2 & 4 / Article: “Remembering Robinson”

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #2: Beginnings of a Cultural Shift in American Sports

### WEEK 4:

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

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

### WEEK 5:

**Reading:** Reading Packet Section 4 & 5 / Zirin Chapter 9

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #4: Juice & Two-Three

### WEEK 6:

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

### WEEK 7:

**Reading:** Zirin Chapter 8 / Reading Packet Section 6

**Assignment:** Reflection Paper #5: Gender & Sports

### WEEK 8:

**Reading:** WEEK 8 Readings

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

### WEEK 9:

**Reading:** Reading Packet Section 7

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

WEEK 10:

**Reading:** Reading Packet Section 8

**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**

- Discuss why you chose this event.
- Explain the cultural relevance of this event.

#### **Section 2: Literature Review**

- You must include and quote at least 4 sources (APA or MLA style)
- What do the established opinions of others say about the background of your event?

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

- Explain, discuss and critically examine your experiences and cultural observations at the sporting event you have selected to attend for this assignment.

#### **Section 4: Bibliography/List of References**

- List all sources for quotations, statistics and figures, and other referenced information included in the research paper.
- Either APA or MLA style of citation is acceptable.

**Be sure to label each section, include a cover page, spell check, correct grammar, etc. The grading rubric that will be used to score the exam is included in this syllabus.**

## **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

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

Rating        1        2        3

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

Rating        1        2        3

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ out of 150

## **ETHN 200: Sports and Culture**

### **Grade Sheet**

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

- |                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Class Discussion and Participation | _____ 200 points |
| 2. Sports Autobiography               | _____ 100 points |
| 3. Reflection Papers                  | _____ 300 points |
| 4. Midterm Examination                | _____ 150 points |
| 5. Final Research Paper               | _____ 150 points |
| 6. Final Paper Presentation           | _____ 100 points |

TOTAL	_____ 1000 points
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FINAL GRADE	_____
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## 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 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 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 BC 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 BC 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.

\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.