

BELLEVUE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

ETHN 200A/Sports and Culture

(5895)

Syllabus

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

--J-Ro

Instructor: Dr. Daudi Abe

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Quarter: Spring 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 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: 2 reflection papers will be based at least in part on two movies: "Glory Road" and "When We Were Kings."

4. Midterm Examination: The midterm examination will include short answer, fill in the blank, multiple-choice, and essay sections. Test items will be drawn from course readings and class lectures.

5. Final Paper: Instead of a final exam, there is a 10-to-15-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 completed 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

Plagiarism: Use of another person's words or ideas as your own without proper citation is plagiarism. It is a serious offense in any educational setting and can result in expulsion. Suspected cases of plagiarism are reviewed by the Conduct and Standards Committee, which deals with academic/student misconduct.

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)

WEEK	Zirin	Reading Packet	Assignments & Activities
ONE			Sports Autobiography
TWO		Sections 1 & 2	Reflection Paper
THREE	Ch. 2 & 4		Reflection Paper
FOUR	Ch. 7		Movie: "Glory Road"/Reflection Paper
FIVE	Ch. 3	Section 3	Movie: "When We Were Kings"/Reflection
SIX		Section 4	Reflection Paper
SEVEN	Ch. 9	Section 5	Reflection Paper/Mid-Term Review
EIGHT			Mid-Term Exam/Final Paper topic ideas
NINE	Pg. 178-80	Section 6	Reflection Paper
TEN	Ch. 8		Reflection Paper
ELEVEN			Final Paper Presentations

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

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 _____