KINE 5307-W01
Issues in Sports
Summer 2025

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Office Hours:

- Available **by appointment**

- To schedule a meeting, please email or use the online booking link:
  Schedule an Appointment

Course Delivery

Format: Web-Delivered via Blackboard
All course materials, announcements, assignments, discussions, and Final Project will be managed through the Blackboard learning platform.

Required Textbook

Sports In Society: Issues and Controversies (13th Edition)
Authors: Coakley
Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education
Access: Available through BlackBoard with Connect online resources

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This class requires McGraw Hill Connect textbook access –
- You do not need to purchase the book or McGraw Hill Connect
- The McGraw Hill Connect materials are included in your Sully Shelf Book Fee ($250).
- McGraw Hill Connect will be automatically available in Blackboard once the course begins.
- This class is NOT accessed through the BryteWave Link. You may still use the BryteWave Link to access other eBook Companies in other classes, but not this one.
- The best thing to do is just click on the assignment to go directly into Connect (create an account if you have not done so before, make sure you use your SRSU email address).

Instructions on How To Access Connect Material: Please watch these 2 videos:
- https://video.mhhe.com/watch/Uthnw8apvaUvo6DJnwfi1d?
- How to pair your BB Utlra w/ MH Connect LTIA.

McGraw-Hill Connect Tech Support number – 800-331-5094.

Course Description
This course provides an examination of the intersection of sport and society: implications of class, race, and gender-based social issues in youth, college, and professional sport structures.

Purpose of the Course
Social Issues in Sport is designed to acquaint students with the principles and applications of social issues within the sport industry. The course is grounded in sociological research and requires critical thinking to investigate the links between many major issues facing sports organizations today. Specifically, we will assess the intersection of race and sports, gender and sports, class and sports, media, and sports, as well as the issues plaguing youth, college, and professional sports in American society.

Marketable Skills
The following marketable skills are met in this course:
- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze social issues in sports, including gender, race, media, and access, connecting them to sociological theories.
- **Research Skills:** Conduct independent research, analyze studies, and apply theoretical concepts to real-world sports scenarios.
- **Data Collection:** Practice data collection techniques, including observation, interviews, and media analysis, for the final project.
- **Effective Communication:** Develop written and verbal communication skills through discussions, assignments, and a multimedia final project.
- **Digital Literacy:** Use digital tools, including Connect SmartBook, for learning and multimedia presentation formats for the final project.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Explore how social factors like gender, race, and ability impact sports participation and representation.
- **Problem-Solving:** Identify social issues in sports, propose solutions, and support conclusions with evidence in the final project.
- **Professionalism:** Demonstrate time management, organization, and accountability by completing assignments and the final project on schedule.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:
- **Understand Sociological Concepts in Sports:** Explain how socialization, ideology, and cultural norms influence sports.
- **Analyze Sports Participation:** Evaluate factors that impact sports involvement across age, gender, and cultural backgrounds.
- **Identify Deviance and Violence in Sports:** Define and differentiate between deviance, overconformity, and violence in sports.
- **Examine Gender, Race, and Social Class in Sports:** Assess how these social factors influence access, participation, and representation.
- **Explore Age and Ability in Sports:** Analyze how ageism, ableism, and disabilities impact sports participation.
- **Investigate Economic Aspects of Sports:** Understand the relationship between sports, commercialization, and athlete income.
- **Evaluate Sports and Media:** Analyze how media shapes public perceptions of sports and influences fan engagement.

- **Examine Politics in Sports:** Understand government and global influence on sports, including international events.
- **Understand Religion in Sports:** Explore the connections between sports and religion, including faith-based organizations.
- **Predict Future Trends in Sports:** Identify emerging trends and analyze potential changes in sports culture.

Grading Policies

Grade calculation	% of Grade	Grading Scale	
Pre-Course Assignments	20 points (2%)	895 or more	A
Chapter Connect SmartBooks	16 @ 20 = 320 (32%)	795-894	B
Discussions	3 @ 60 = 180 points (18%)	695-794	C
Assignments	5 @ 30/75 = 320 points (32%)	595-694	D
Final Project	1 @ 100 points = 150 points (15%)	Less than 594	F
		Total Points = 1000	

*Letter Grading as per SRSU policy will be used in this course.

Note: Satisfactory progress in the Sports Administration program means a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all core classes (e.g., everything leading up to the final practicum course). In most cases, this means a 'B' or better in each class is considered satisfactory progress.

Tentative Course Calendar

Week	Content	Due
1 5/28 to 6/1 **5/30 Last Day for Late Registration & Schedule Changes**	Blackboard - Start Here, Pre-Course Assignments Chapter 1 – The Sociology of Sport Chapter 2 – Producing Knowledge About Sports in Society	*Introduce Yourself Discussion* - **5/30;** *Response* – **6/1** *Pre-Course Check & Quiz* – **6/1** Connect SmartBook Chapter 1 - **6/1** Connect SmartBook Chapter 2 - **6/1** **Assignment 1** – **6/1**
2 6/2 to 6/8	Chapter 3 – Sports and Socialization Chapter 4 – Organized Youth Sports Chapter 5 – Deviance in Sports	Connect SmartBook Chapter 3 – **6/8** Connect SmartBook Chapter 4 – **6/8** Connect SmartBook Chapter 5 – **6/8**

Week	Topic	Assignments
	Chapter 6 – Violence in Sports	Connect SmartBook Chapter 6 – **6/8** **Discussion 1 – 6/8** **Assignment 2 - 6/8**
3 6/9 to 6/15	Chapter 7 – Gender and Sports Chapter 8 – Race and Ethnicity Chapter 9 – Social Class Chapter 10 – Age and Ability	Connect SmartBook Chapter 7 – **6/15** Connect SmartBook Chapter 8 – **6/15** Connect SmartBook Chapter 9 – **6/15** Connect SmartBook Chapter 10 – **6/15** **Discussion 2 - 6/15** **Assignment 3 – 6/15**
4 6/16 to 6/22 **Last Day to Withdraw 'W' 6/20**	Chapter 11 – Sports and the Economy Chapter 12 – Sports and the Media Chapter 13 – Sports and Politics Chapter 14 – Sports in High School and College	Connect SmartBook Chapter 11 – **6/22** Connect SmartBook Chapter 12 – **6/22** Connect SmartBook Chapter 13 – **6/22** Connect SmartBook Chapter 14 – **6/22** **Discussion 3 – 6/22** **Assignment 4 - 6/22**
5 6/23 to 6/29	Chapter 15 – Sports and Religions Chapter 16 – Sports in the Future Work on your Final Project	Connect SmartBook Chapter 15 – **6/29** Connect SmartBook Chapter 16 – **6/29** **Assignment 5 – 6/29**
6 6/30 to 7/2	Use this week to complete your Final Project	**Final Project – 7/2**

Pre-Course Assignments (20 Points Total)

To ensure a successful start to the course, students must complete the following pre-course assignments:

1. Syllabus Check & Quiz (10 points total)

- **Format:** 10 multiple-choice questions, worth 1 point each
- **Purpose:** This quiz is designed to confirm that you have thoroughly read and understood the syllabus, including important policies, expectations, and course logistics.
- **Attempts:** You may take the quiz as many times as you like. Your highest score will be recorded.

- **Submission of this quiz indicates that you acknowledge and understand all course expectations as outlined in the syllabus.**

2. Introduce Yourself Discussion (10 points total)

- **Initial Post (5 points):** Use the provided prompts to write a thoughtful introduction so your instructor and classmates can get to know you.
- **Replies to Classmates (5 points):** Respond meaningfully to at least **two** classmates' posts (2.5 points each).
- **Purpose:** This assignment helps build community and connection in our online learning environment.

Class Activities

Instructions:

In this course, you will engage in a variety of class activities designed to enhance your understanding of the sociology of sport and prepare you for the Final Project. These activities are carefully planned to help you apply sociological concepts, develop critical thinking skills, and gain practical experience with research and data collection.

Types of Class Activities:

1. **Discussions (3 Total – 180 Points)**
   o Purpose: Encourage critical thinking and peer interaction on key sociological topics in sports.
   o Format:
     ▪ Initial post: You will respond to a discussion prompt with a well-thought-out answer using course concepts.
     ▪ Peer responses: You will engage with at least two classmates, providing constructive feedback or additional insights.
   o Grading: Each discussion is worth 60 points.
   o Topics:
     ▪ **Discussion 1:** Defining Sport and Its Social Impact.
     ▪ **Discussion 2:** Media Representation of Athletes.
     ▪ **Discussion 3:** Social Issues in Sports.

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2. **Connect SmartBook Chapter Readings (16 Total – 320 Points)**
   o Purpose: Provide foundational knowledge on key sociological concepts in sports.
   o Access: Complete SmartBook readings through McGraw Hill Connect in Blackboard.
   o Complete the SmartBook reading by answering the embedded questions as you progress.
   o Grading: Each chapter is worth 20 points.
   o Important: **Ignore the 6/29 due date in Connect. Always check the syllabus and weekly announcements for correct due dates.**

3. **Assignments (5 Total – 330 Points)**
    o Purpose: Develop your skills in critical reflection, media analysis, research, and data collection.
    o Assignment List:
        ▪ **Assignment 1: Sociology of Sport Pre-Test (30 Points)**
            ▪ Complete a 26-item true-false quiz to assess your baseline knowledge.
            ▪ You will have the option to retake this quiz between Week 5 and Week 6.
        ▪ **Assignment 2: Sport and Society Reflection (75 Points)**
            ▪ Reflect on your personal sports experiences and connect them to sociological concepts.
        ▪ **Assignment 3: Media Analysis of Sports Representation (75 Points)**
            ▪ Analyze a sports media example (article, video, social media post) for representations of gender, race, or social class.
        ▪ **Assignment 4: Research Investigation (75 Points)**
            ▪ Conduct research on a sociological issue in sports, analyzing credible sources.
        ▪ **Assignment 5: Observation Project – Youth Sports (75 Points)**
            ▪ Observe interactions in a youth sports setting and analyze the social dynamics.

4. **Final Project: Society and Sport – An In-Depth Sociological Analysis (150 Points)**
    o Purpose: Demonstrate your understanding of sociological concepts by conducting an in-depth analysis of a social issue in sports.
    o Project Options:
        ▪ **Research Paper (5 pages minimum)**
        ▪ **Multimedia Presentation**
            • Save your presentation as a PowerPoint or as a PDF with a voiceover.
    o Project Components:
        ▪ **Introduction:** State your chosen social issue and its significance.
        ▪ **Literature Review:** Use at least two credible research articles.
        ▪ **Methods:** Describe your data collection methods (observation, interviews, media analysis).
        ▪ **Findings:** Present your observations, interview quotes, or media analysis results.
        ▪ **Discussion:** Connect your findings to sociological theories.
        ▪ **Conclusion:** Summarize insights and suggest solutions.

Course Requirements Deadline

To allow adequate time for grading, **all course requirements must be submitted by the final deadline:
Friday of Week 6 at 11:59 PM (Central Time).
Any work submitted after this deadline will **not** be accepted or counted toward your final grade—**no exceptions**.

Please ensure all assignments are completed and submitted **on time** throughout the course.

Late Work Policy

All coursework must be submitted by the deadlines posted in Blackboard. The following policies apply to late submissions:

- **Chapter Quizzes:**
  - **No late submissions will be accepted.**
- **Other Assignments (Pre-Course Assignments, Class Activities, Discussion Questions):**
  - **1–7 days late:** 30% deduction
  - **More than 7 days late:**
    - Must receive **prior approval** from the instructor to be considered for grading.
    - If approved, a **minimum 50% deduction** will apply.

Note: Extensions are not guaranteed. It is the student's responsibility to communicate proactively if extenuating circumstances arise.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity Statement

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid engaging in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

As an SRSU student, it is your responsibility to read and understand the university's expectations about academic integrity. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The policy can be found at:
https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/

In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Statement)

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities.

It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility

Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mary.schwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Classroom Climate of Respect
Big Three:
- Show up on time.
- Be present for the 50 minutes we are together.
- Be respectful to other classmates.

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another based on race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Counseling
Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free online counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/356 support by visiting Timelycare/SRSU. The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

SRSU Library Services
The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).
No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Supportive Statement
I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

Technical Support

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, the Support Desk can help you if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or using BlackBoard. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience.

You can reach the support desk:
- By calling 888.837.6055
- Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard
- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

Tutoring

a) Tutoring and Learning Center located in the library (call 432-837-8982 for a reservation with a tutor)
b) Tutor.com (online tutoring services available on BlackBoard) – be sure to allow 48 hours turnaround time for a writing assignment.

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Accidents & Injuries

In the case of bodily or personal property damage, the Kinesiology Department will not be held responsible. The student must report any field experience related to injury or illness to the instructor immediately. Any expense incurred due to injury or illness will be the student's responsibility.

Academic Civility Statement

Students are expected to interact with professors and peers in a respectful manner that enhances the learning environment. Professors may require a student who deviates from this expectation to leave the face-to-face (or virtual) classroom learning environment for that particular class session (and potentially subsequent class sessions) for a specific amount of time. In addition, the professor might consider the university disciplinary process (for Academic Affairs/Student Life) for egregious or continued disruptive behavior.

Academic Affairs Service Statement

Sul Ross faculty, staff, and students are expected to model responsible citizenship through service activities that promote personal and academic growth while enhancing the university, local, regional, national, and global communities. These activities will foster a culture of academic/public engagement that contributes to the achievement of the university's mission and core values.

Academic Excellence Statement

Sul Ross holds high expectations for students to assume responsibility for their own individual learning. Students are also expected to achieve academic excellence by:

- Honoring the core values of Sul Ross.
- Upholding high standards of habit and behavior.
- Maintaining excellence through class attendance and punctuality.
- Preparing for active participation in all learning experiences.
- Putting forth their best individual effort.
- Continually improving as independent learners.
- Engaging in extracurricular opportunities that encourage personal and academic growth.
- Reflecting critically upon feedback and applying these lessons to meet future challenges.

AI Policy Statement: Sul Ross State University Kinesiology Department

The Sul Ross State University Kinesiology Department is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and excellence. As artificial intelligence (AI) tools become increasingly accessible, we recognize their potential as valuable resources for learning and innovation. However, it is imperative that students use AI tools ethically and responsibly.

The improper use of AI in assignments, including but not limited to, generating content without proper attribution, submitting AI-generated work as one's own, or using AI tools to circumvent the learning process, constitutes academic dishonesty. Such actions undermine the educational goals of our programs and violate the University's Code of Conduct.

Students found to be improperly using AI for assignments may face severe consequences, including but not limited to receiving a failing grade for the assignment or course. Additionally, such violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for further disciplinary action, which may include probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University.

We encourage students to seek guidance from their instructors if they have any questions about the appropriate use of AI in their coursework. Our department is committed to fostering an environment of integrity, where students can achieve their academic and professional goals through honest and meaningful engagement with their studies.