



SUL ROSS
KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

KINE 5307-W01
Issues in Sports
Summer 2026

Dr. Hugh Morrissey

Assistant Professor - Kinesiology

Office Location: Grace-Pierce 101

Office Phone: (432) 837-8556

Email: hugh.morrissey@sulross.edu

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

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/Uthnw8apvaUvo6DJnwf1d?>
- [How to pair your BB Ultra 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	40 points (4%)	895 or more A
Chapter Connect SmartBooks	16 @ 25 = 400 (40%)	795-894 B
Assignments	4 @ 85 = 340 points (34%)	695-794 C
Final Project	1 @ 120 points = 120 points (12%)	595-694 D
Final Project Replies	2 @ 50 points = 100 points (10%)	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 5/27 to 5/31 5/29 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	<i>Introduce Yourself Discussion - 5/31; Response – 5/31</i> <i>Pre-Course Check & Quiz – 5/31</i> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 1 - 5/31</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 2 - 5/31</u> Assignment 1 – 5/31
2 6/1 to 6/7	Chapter 3 – Sports and Socialization Chapter 4 – Organized Youth Sports Chapter 5 – Deviance in Sports Chapter 6 – Violence in Sports	<u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 3 – 6/7</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 4 – 6/7</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 5 – 6/7</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 6 – 6/7</u> Assignment 2 - 6/7

3 6/8 to 6/14	Chapter 7 – Gender and Sports Chapter 8 – Race and Ethnicity Chapter 9 – Social Class Chapter 10 – Age and Ability	<u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 7 – 6/14</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 8 – 6/14</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 9 – 6/14</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 10 – 6/14</u> Assignment 3 – 6/14
4 6/15 to 6/21 <u>Last Day to Withdraw</u> <u>‘W’ 6/18</u>	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	<u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 11 – 6/21</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 12 – 6/21</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 13 – 6/21</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 14 – 6/21</u> Assignment 4 - 6/21
5 6/22 to 6/28	Chapter 15 – Sports and Religions Chapter 16 – Sports in the Future Work on your Final Project	<u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 15 – 6/28</u> <u>Connect SmartBook Chapter 16 – 6/28</u> Final Project – 6/28
6 6/29 to 7/1	Use this week to complete your Final Project Responses	Final Project Responses – 7/1

Pre-Course Assignments (40 Points Total)

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

1. Syllabus Check & Quiz (20 points total)

- **Format:** 10 multiple-choice questions, worth 2 points 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 (20 points total)

- **Initial Post (12 points):** Use the provided prompts to write a thoughtful introduction so your instructor and classmates can get to know you.
 - **Replies to Classmates (8 points):** Respond meaningfully to at least **two** classmates' posts (4 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 series of **AI-integrated assignments, readings, and discussions** designed to build toward your Final Project. These activities are structured to help you apply sociological concepts, develop critical thinking skills, evaluate AI-generated information, and analyze real-world sport issues at a graduate level.

Types of Class Activities:

1. **Connect SmartBook Chapter Readings (16 Total – 400 Points)**
 - Purpose: Provide foundational knowledge on key sociological concepts in sports.
 - Access: Complete SmartBook readings through McGraw Hill Connect in Blackboard.
 - Complete the SmartBook reading by answering the embedded questions as you progress.
 - Grading: Each chapter is worth 25 points.
 - Important: **Ignore the 6/28 due date in Connect. Always check the syllabus and weekly announcements for correct due dates.**
-

2. **AI Assignments (4 Total – 340 Points)**

- **Purpose:** Develop graduate-level skills in sociological analysis, research, and **critical evaluation of AI-generated information.**
- **Structure:** Each assignment builds toward your Final Project and focuses on the same sociological issue selected in Assignment 1.

Assignment List:

- **Assignment 1: Topic Selection & AI Exploration (85 Points)**
Select a sociological issue in sport and use AI to explore the topic.
- **Assignment 2: Sociological Issue Analysis (85 Points)**
Analyze your issue using sociological concepts and evaluate AI explanations.
- **Assignment 3: Research Investigation (85 Points)**
Use **two scholarly sources and course eBook content** to support your analysis and evaluate AI summaries.

- **Assignment 4: Observation / Media / Social Analysis (85 Points)**
Conduct real-world observation or media analysis and connect findings to sociological concepts.

AI Requirement (ALL Assignments):

Each assignment must include:

- AI Prompt(s)
 - AI Output (Raw)
 - Human Evaluation
 - Final Human Analysis
-

4. Final Project: (120 Points)

Society and Sport: Comprehensive Sociological Analysis

- **Purpose:** Demonstrate your ability to synthesize course concepts, research, real-world analysis, and AI evaluation into a comprehensive project.
 - **Required Format:**
 - PowerPoint Presentation
 - **Video + Voiceover REQUIRED**
 - 8–15 slides
 - 8–12 minutes
 - **Requirements:**
Your project must integrate and build upon **Assignments 1–4** and include:
 - Introduction
 - Sociological Issue Analysis
 - Research Investigation (2 scholarly sources + eBook)
 - Observation / Real-World Analysis
 - Sociological Discussion
 - Conclusion
 - AI Reflection & Evaluation
 - AI Prompt(s) & AI Output
-

5. Final Project Replies (2 Total – 100 Points)

- **Purpose:** Engage in graduate-level discussion and provide meaningful feedback on classmates' final projects.
 - **Requirements:**
 - Respond to **two classmates**
 - Minimum **250 words each**
 - Demonstrate critical thinking and connection to course concepts
 - **Grading:** 50 points each
-

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:** 50% 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

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 counseling@sulross.edu. The counseling 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.

Required Student Responsibilities Statement

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as 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 a secure login. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

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 the temptation to engage 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.

Classroom Climate of Respect

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 on the basis of 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 counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 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.

Libraries

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer 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 logging in with your Lobold and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by 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.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

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.

Tutoring Center

[The Lobo Den Tutoring Center](#) offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

- **Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments:** Flexible options to fit your needs.
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- **Workshops:** Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
- **Location:** BWML Room 128.
- **Contact Us:** For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.

Looking for additional support?

- **Tutor.com** offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- **Access Tutor.com via Blackboard:** Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

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.