

COM 341: Media, Society, and Sport (3 Credit Hours)

T, Th 9:35-10:50 AM

Fell 158

Office Hours: by appointment

Prerequisites: COM 111

Catalog Description

Students will learn about the role of sports media content in the social construction of reality. As sports content is ubiquitous, its reach into commerce, education, and civic life and racial justice will be examined.

Course Overview

This course will examine mass-mediated sport as a creator and reflection of cultural expectations and social performance. Of course, much communication about sport reduces it to mere entertainment and diversion. However, even the most seemingly unimportant sporting event asks us to subscribe to static notions about citizenship, race, gender, religion, sexuality, class, occupation, etc. Students will become more critical observers of sports and culture.

Questions of Diversity and Inclusion will be central to much of the course content!

Specific Student Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the reach of sports media into our social lives far beyond the role of mere amusement.
2. Identify patterns of ideology and professional practices which influence society's ideas about race, gender, religion, class, sexuality, and social priorities.
3. Identify several theoretical frameworks useful for understanding media, sport, and society.
4. Write a scholarly paper using library sources and a commonly used style book.

Topical Outline and Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Sport and Society

Week 2: Sport and Community

Week 3: Sport and Media Landscape

Week 4: Sport and Fan Culture

Week 5: Sport and Mythology

Week 6: Gender and Sport

Week 7: Race and Ethnicity in Sport

Week 8: Sport and Nationalism

Week 9: Sport and Identity Performance

Week 10: Sport and Family

Week 11: Sport and Group Dynamics
Week 12: Sport and Crisis Communication
Week 13: Commodification and Sport
Week 14: Sport Gaming
Week 15: Contingent
Required Texts

Billings, A. and Butterworth, M. (2022). *Communication and sport: Surveying the field*. (4th edition). Sage.

Also see CANVAS under Resources for Additional Reading.

Required Tasks

1. A detailed comparison of a published abstract and an AI-generated summary of a scholarly article. (10%)
2. A final paper of 15-20 pages. (20%)
3. Students will take two tests: a midterm and final examination. (25% each)
4. Students will participate in the School of Communication Research Announcement Board (5%)
5. Students will be required to participate with class discussions based on reading prompts given before class. (15%)

Student Performance Evaluation Methods/Grading Scale

90% and above=A
80% to 89%=B
70% to 79%=C
60% to 69%=D
Below 60%=F

Attendance and Other Course Policies

While attendance will not technically be calculated into the final grade, the student's participation is most closely tied to being physically present.

I love teaching and want to make your learning experience as fun and as enjoyable as possible. Let's all maintain good humor and respect for each other in the course of our discussions. In recent years, discussions of issues with economic and social ramifications have a tendency toward controversy and strongly held opinions. Charity and empathy should guide our discussions, always with an end toward better understanding of communication phenomena.

The best way to reach me is via email. I typically return email within an hour or two, but always

within 24 hours.

Academic dishonesty will result in failure for the course. Turning in papers on time with content as requested and reading assigned material will likely lead to a positive grade outcome.

Student Access and Accommodations

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit Student Access and Accommodation Services (http://studentaccess.illinoisstate.edu/faculty_staff/academic/).