

**Weber State University**  
**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

Sociology 4990  
Seminar in Sociology of Sport  
TTh 12:00 – 1:15 PM  
Rm. SS 44  
Fall 2014  
On Canvas through Student Portal

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### **WHAT IS A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SPORT?**

Perhaps the most compelling reason for the sociological study of sport is its pervasiveness. Sport sociologist D. Stanley Eitzen suggests just how pervasive it is in American society (*Fair and Foul*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 3-4):

Participation rates are high. Most children are involved in organized sport at some time in their lives. Sport is the subject of much conversation, reading material, leisure activity, and discretionary spending. Over one-tenth of the *World Almanac* is devoted annually to sport, more than is allotted to politics, business, and science. *USA Today*, the most widely read newspaper in the United States, devotes one-fourth of its space to sport. Even the *Wall Street Journal* has a weekly sports page. Several cable television networks provide twenty-four-hour coverage. Almost one-fifth of major network time is devoted to sport. Annually, the most watched television event in the United States is the Super Bowl. The amount of sports betting is staggering, with unknown billions waged legally and illegally.

As Eitzen further points out, sports fans know a great deal about sports from following their favorite teams and athletes in the media. They know about point spreads, statistics, and biographical information on athletes and coaches. As children, many of us learned sports information, memorizing incredible amounts of trivia. Moreover, most of us play sports, as individuals or on teams, throughout our lives. Yet many fans and participants have a superficial, uncritical attitude toward sport. They cannot separate the hype from the reality. They don't question the way that sport is organized.

Sociologists are prone to examine all social arrangements critically. Thus, this course will address questions such as: How does sport really work? Who has power and who does not? Who benefits

the sports we play and the sports we love is

## **KEEPING SCORE**

Your course grade is based upon oral presentations, written assignments, a community engaged learning experience with Youth Impact, and contributions in class.

### ***1. Oral Presentations (10%)***

Current Events Presentations (2 per student)





**4. Extra credit**

There is no planned extra credit in this class.

**5. WSU Student Code**

Weeks 2 & 3

