Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Social Sciences
Fall 2011

CRIJ 4370 Sports and Crime

Instructor: Dr. Melissa L. Jarrell
Days/Time: WED 4:20-6:50pm
Class Location: CI-102
Office: BH-345
Office Hours: Mon 12-2pm, Wed 1-2, Thurs 12-2
Phone Number: (361) 825-2188
E-mail Address: melissa.jarrell@tamucc.edu

Required Texts:


Course Description

Sports and Crime will offer students the opportunity to critically review, analyze, and evaluate the realm of sport (broadly defined) from a criminological and sociological perspective. This course is specifically designed to explore crime, controversy, and conflict in the realm of sports in our society. Students will critically examine the role of sport in society from a variety of perspectives, including a thorough examination of the impact of race, class, gender, economics, and power. Through the completion of readings, group discussions and activities, and writing assignments, students should attain an in-depth and critical understanding of the various economic, political, social, cultural and historical aspects that affect sports in our society.

Learning Outcomes

Student learning outcomes will be assessed and evaluated based on class discussions of lecture material, assigned readings, news articles, and films, as well as specific written evaluations of homework assignments, in-class group activities and a research paper and oral presentation.

1. To critically analyze and evaluate sport from a criminological and sociological perspective.
2. To critically review the history of sport from a criminological and sociological perspective and understand the importance of historical analysis and historical trends.

3. To identify and understand causes of aggression, violence, deviance, conflict, and criminality in the realm of sport.

4. To discuss, analyze, and understand the often paradoxical and complex relationship between sport and major social structural issues including but not limited to race/ethnicity, class, gender, politics, economics, culture, and criminal justice.

5. To demonstrate and hone critical thinking skills as well as research, writing, and oral communication skills, as they relate to sports and social issues, particularly with respect to crime, deviance, conflict, and violence.

**Student Responsibilities:**

- TURN OFF CELL PHONES!!!
- Pay attention during class. Private conversations, sleeping, and reading non-class related material will not be tolerated.
- Learn something! Participate in class discussions.

**Students with Disabilities/Religious Needs:**

If you are a student with a disability or have special needs, please let me know during the first week of class. In addition, students observing religious holidays that conflict with class exams/presentations must let me know during the first week of class.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Driftwood 101.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Honesty:**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work
of another as one’s own work.) If unsure of what honesty entails or for more information regarding the penalties for academic dishonesty, please refer to the University Catalog.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process**

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)

2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.

3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.

4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.

5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.

6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.

7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)

8. Decision by Provost.

9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University

For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments***</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>400</td>
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***Assignments (Percentage/Points Breakdown)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Sports Synopsis</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Benedict Questions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Film Reaction Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Sports Observation</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>360-400 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>320-359 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>280-319 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>240-279 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>239 and below</td>
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**Research Paper (150 points total): DUE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**

Students are required to research and write an 8-10 page paper which explores a topic relevant to sport in society as it relates to crime, conflict, or controversy. Your paper should be a well-researched and in-depth exploration of a topic that will demonstrate a high level of understanding of a topic relevant to the course. In order to avoid redundancy in the papers and class presentations, I am requiring that paper/presentation topics be unique. It is imperative that you pick a specific topic soon and review your topic with me. For example, some students may decide to do research in the realm of “drug use and sports”. This is a broad topic with many sub-topics such as “illegal drug use in sports”, “performance enhancing drugs”, “steroid use in professional sports”, etc.

It is important to recognize that the most difficult part of the research process usually involves gathering appropriate research materials and data. Consequently, I advise you to
make a research plan and begin the process during the first week of class. If you wait until the last minute (which is a terrible idea in a seven week course!), you may find that the information you need is not available. The research paper will require a minimum of eight sources and at least four of these eight sources must come from academic, peer-reviewed journals. In addition to scholarly journals, books, websites, and research reports may be used. I will provide a more detailed explanation of paper requirements during the first week of class. I will designate some class time to discussing research and writing protocol throughout the semester. Also, I will be more than happy to assist students during each phase of the researching and writing process. The paper is a MAJOR component of your final grade! I will accept rough drafts for review anytime prior to one week before the due date. I suggest that you take advantage of this opportunity; especially if you have difficulty with research/writing and/or documentation (APA is required!).

**Presentation (60 points total):**

Students will be required to give a 10 minute presentation that incorporates information from the research paper and relevant class material. The presentation should be well-prepared and rehearsed. Students may use PowerPoint or other presentation methods but should avoid reading directly from their slides/notes. Presentations will be given in the last three weeks of the class.

**Exam (50 points): WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH**

One exam will be administered in this course. The exam will include multiple choice questions and true/false. The exam will cover the assigned readings, class discussions, and videos. Permission to take an all essay make-up exam must be obtained at least one week prior to the date of the exam and will only be granted under extreme circumstances. Naturally, I am the sole judge of “extreme circumstances” and I’ve heard (and used) every excuse in the book!

**Assignments (100 points total):**

ALL assignments will be submitted via Blackboard on or before the due date. Late assignments may be submitted but you will lose points. I will not accept printed papers or papers via e-mail.

**Sport Synopsis (Due on 9/8) (20 points)**

You will be assigned two sports during class on XXX. You are required to create a one to two page fact sheet for each sport. Define and describe the sports you have been assigned. Offer some historical background and statistical information about your sports. Provide some interesting facts about your sports. Make sure to document sources used for this assignment (APA). Papers without sources will automatically lose 10 points. Papers with sources that improperly documented will automatically lose 5 points. Be prepared to discuss your findings in class on XXX.
“Bigger, Stronger, Faster” Film Reaction Paper (Due on 10/20) (20 points)

Reaction papers are designed so that you'll consider carefully what you think or feel about something you've read or seen. Prepare a short reaction paper to the film “Bigger, Stronger, Faster”. How did you feel about the film and the major issues presented in the film? With what do you agree or disagree? Did you identify with anything presented in the film? Papers must be no less than two pages, typed and double-spaced (one-inch margins, 12-point font).

Benedict Chapter Questions (Due on 11/3 and 11/10) (20 points)

Chapter questions for the Benedict book will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard. You should prepare typed responses to the questions and submit them prior to the due date via Blackboard. Be prepared to discuss your responses during class. You may work with other students on this assignment; however, responses must be written in your own words. If I observe verbatim responses (plagiarism), you will receive a ZERO for this assignment.

Sports Observation (Due on 11/17) (40 points)

You are required to conduct an observation of some sport (in person), either as a participant, a coach/parent, or as a spectator/fan. You may attend a practice, game, meet, competition, match, etc. Please let me know the “who/what/where” before you engage in field research. During the observational period, you should take field notes, if possible. At the conclusion of your observations (1-2 hours preferably), you are to type a 2-3 page paper which addresses the following questions:

- Where did you make your observations? Describe the setting/sport/people.
- Why did you select this particular sport/place to observe?
- Did you observe any conflict or controversy? Explain.
- Did you observe any racism, sexism, or classicism?
- Did you observe anything that relates to the issues discussed in the course?
- Did you observe any criminal/deviant behavior or excessive violence?
- Did you notice anything you might not normally observe? Explain.

Attendance/Participation (40 points total):

Attendance will be taken frequently throughout the semester. Attendance is expected for the duration of each class. Therefore, leaving class early will result in an absence for that class. In addition, tardiness will not be tolerated. Participation in class discussions and in group activities/discussions is expected and factored into your final grade.

Concluding Remarks

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to speak with me after class or to give me a call/send me an e-mail. I am available to assist you with information pertaining to this course and to the criminal justice system in general.
Students are expected to complete assigned readings by the date assigned in the syllabus.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus throughout the semester. Students will be given advanced notice of any syllabus modifications.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 9/1   | Introduction  
History of Sport in Society  
Deviance in Sport |                                    |
| 9/8   | Duality of Sport  
Unity and Division  
*Sports Synopsis due on 9/8* | Eitzen Chapter 1  
Eitzen Chapter 2 |
| 9/15  | *Film: One Day in September*  
Religion/Culture | Eitzen Chapter 3 |
| 9/22  | Social Control  
Race/Class/Gender | Eitzen Chapter 6  
Eitzen Chapter 7 |
| 9/29  | Physical/Mental Pressures  
*Film: Murderball* | Eitzen Chapter 5 |
| 10/6  | Commercialism/Economics  
Recruiting/Education | Eitzen Chapter 8  
Eitzen Chapter 9 |
| 10/13 | *EXAM on 10/13*  
Gambling  
Drug Use/Abuse  
*Film: Bigger, Stronger, Faster* | Eitzen Chapter 10  
Eitzen Chapter 11 |
| 10/20 | Professional Sports  
Globalization  
*Film Reaction Paper due on 10/20* | Eitzen Chapter 10  
Eitzen Chapter 11 |
| 10/27 | Violence and Aggression  
*Film: Tyson* | Eitzen Chapter 4 |
| 11/3  | Fans/Spectators  
Sports and the Media  
Athletes and the CJS  
*Benedict Questions due on 11/3* | Benedict 1-5 |
| 11/10 | Athletes and the CJS  
Sports and the Future  
*Benedict Questions due on 11/10*  
*Presentations* | Benedict 6-13  
Eitzen Chapter 12 |
| 11/17 | *Discuss Sports Observations (due on 11/17)*  
*Presentations* |                                    |
| 11/24 | *Presentations* |                                    |
| 12/1  | *Presentations* |                                    |
| 12/10 | *Research Papers due on 12/10* |                                    |