The objective of this course is to critically examine the increasingly complex relationships between organized sports and the rest of society. Specifically, this course will undertake a sociological analysis of how organized sports affect, and are affected by, major social institutions, such as the economy, health, racial and gender relations, stratification, mass media, and religion, to mention but a few.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Define and explain the differences among key concepts such as play, games, athletics, sports etc.
- Explain the assumptions and applications of key theoretical perspectives to different aspects sports organizations and behaviors.
- Identify the significance, strengths and limitations of sociological research methods in the study of sports.
- Understand and explain how major social institutions such as the family, economy religion and polity impact, and are impacted by, sports.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

- First Examination........30 percent
- Second Examination........30 percent
- Final Examination...........40 Percent
- Total..................100 percent
Letter Equivalent of Numerical Grades

90 - 100% = A  
80 - 90% = B  
70 - 79 = C  
60 - 69 = D  
<60 = F

All exams must be taken at the scheduled times and place. Make-up exams will not be allowed unless for validly supported medical and/or personal emergencies. Exams are in-class, and in essay format. Answers to exam questions should be thoughtful, analytical and comprehensive. Students are strongly advised to read the instructions on every examination before answering the questions. All exams must be written in "examination book." Class attendance is very important. Students are responsible for seeking and obtaining (from their colleagues) lecture notes and other materials presented and/or passed out in class on the days that they are absent.

CLASS FORMAT
All class instructions will comprise straight lectures and class discussion. The first two class meetings of each week are devoted to lectures and the third meeting will be for class discussions and/or debates. This format is preferred, not mandatory. Any day that videos are used to buttress class lectures, or guest speakers are invited to teach, class format may change.

Students with Disabilities
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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

Veterans
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 Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment
must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call (361) 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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. For complete details, including the responsibilities of parties involved in the process and number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s Office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules/assets/13.02.99.c0.03 student_grade_appeals.pdf.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. LAST DATE TO DROP THE CLASS APRIL 10, 2020
COURSE OUTLINE

01/21-02/04 Introductions: Students, Course, Instructor
  Introduction to Critical Thinking (Reading 1)

  What is the Sociology of Sports? Definition, Significance and Scope (Coakley, chp. 1)

  Theoretical Foundations of the Sociology of Sports (Cockley Chp. 2)

  Research Methods in the Sociology of Sports (Reading 2)
  Sport and Socialization (Coakley 4&5)

02/06    First Examination

02/11-03/05 Sports and Health (Reading 3)

  Sports and Deviance (Coakley chp.06&07)

  Sports and Sex (Coakley chp. 8)

  Sports and Race/Ethnicity (Coakley chp.09)

  Sports and Social Class (Coakley chp. 10)

03/09-13 Spring Break

03/18    Second Examination

03/24-04/28 Sports and the Economy (Coakley chp. 11)

  Sports and Media (Coakley chp. 12)

  Sports and Politics (Coakley chp.13)

  Sports and Education (Coakley, chp. 14;)

  Sports and Religion (Coakley, 15)

04/10    DROP DATE

05/12    FINAL EXAMINATION

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate students' and or instructional needs.