

HTS 3075 – FOUNDATIONS OF SPORTS STUDIES
Spring 2015

Tuesday & Thursday 1:35-2:55 PM
D.M. Smith 304

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Sterling
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Office hours:
Tuesdays: 3:30 – 5:00 PM
Thursdays: 12:00 – 1:00 PM
and by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to teach students about the social, cultural, and economic importance of sports in a global context through multidisciplinary case studies. Students will learn about sports as a mass cultural phenomenon and its relationship with education, the economy, science and technology, communities, politics, and the media to better understand sports practices and controversies. We will also consider how race, gender, class, and ethnicity have shaped contemporary and historical sporting experiences.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Demonstrate how sports developed as a mass-cultural phenomenon within the broader historical contexts of American and global societies
- Demonstrate how science and technology became pervasive components of modern sport
- Discuss the relationship between sports and society as it relates to education, politics, economics, the media, technology, and globalization
- Discuss how sports and sport participation inform the way people think about their bodies and about gender, race, social class, and local communities

Course Format:

This is a small course that will emphasize close student-instructor interaction, discussion, and individualized course projects. Students will also learn from guest lecturers and discussions led by Georgia Tech faculty in different disciplines.

Students will engage secondary readings, interrogate definitions of sports, provide summaries of guest lectures, evaluate sports media, and participate in sports studies research.

Students are expected to complete assigned readings, and be prepared to discuss them (e.g. take notes, have questions ready), **prior to class**. Course readings will be provided on T-square in advance of their due date.

Grading and Requirements:

Further instructions about each of the course requirements will be provided in class and on T-square.

Participation – 20%:

Success in this course is dependent upon participation in class discussions. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared to discuss assigned readings, participate in class activities, and actively listen (i.e. take notes) during guest lectures. Points will be awarded for on-time attendance and participation during class. Points from guest lecture summaries (5%) and @GaTechSST (5%) contributions will also count toward final participation grades.

Attendance Policy:

Approved absences typically include: illness, religious holidays, family and personal emergencies, and official representation of GT in extracurricular events. To the extent possible, email in advance of anticipated absences to arrange for alternative accommodations.

Projects – 50%:

Modules 1, 2 and 5 will be evaluated by projects. Students will complete a group project in Module 1, and individual projects in Modules 2 and 5.

Research for the Module 1 Project (Looking for Absences in Georgia Tech's Sports History) will be conducted in the Georgia Tech Archives. Two in-class periods will be dedicated to researching at the Archives. However, groups may need to meet at the archives outside of class time to complete research for the project. In addition, a research day is provided for groups to research, prepare for their presentation, and/or write their subject guides. Group topics will be provided during the project introduction.

The Module 2 Project (Analyzing Sports Media) requires students to analyze their choice of sports media (e.g. televised sporting event, sporting news, sports magazine). Students will follow research methodology outlined in an article provided by the instructor and provide a 3-5 page (typed-double spaced) paper discussing their analysis and findings.

Module 5's project (The Concussion Crisis) will require students to synthesize research on concussions from various interdisciplinary perspectives in a 3-5 page (typed, double-spaced) paper. Students will be expected to locate, and provide support from, 2 academic sources in addition to course readings.

Exams – 30%:

Modules 3 and 4 will be evaluated by exams. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams will cover material from course content in each module, including guest lectures. Student guest lecture summaries, course lecture slides, and your own notes, will provide the review material for exams.

Grading Scale:**Participation: 20%**

- Class Participation: 10%
- @GaTechSST Contributions: 5%
- Guest Lecture Summaries: 5%

Projects: 50%

- Project 1 (Group): 20%
 - Presentation: 5%
 - Subject Guides: 10%
 - Group grade: 5%
- Project 2 (Individual): 15%
- Project 3 (Individual): 15%

Exams 30%

- Module 3 Exam: 15%
- Module 4 Exam: 15%

A: 90-100%**B: 80 - 89%****C: 70 - 79%****D: 60 - 69%****F: 59% and below****Academic Honesty:**

Students in this class will be expected to abide by the Georgia Tech honor code. Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with Georgia Tech rules. For further information, go to: www.honor.gatech.edu

General Courtesy Guidelines:

I expect you to respect your classmates and me at all times. You are expected to be on time for class, refrain from speaking out of turn, and silence your electronic devices before class begins. I will not tolerate sleeping in class, text messaging, or using your computer for any purposes other than in-class research, or taking notes. If you engage in any kind of distracting or inappropriate behavior I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). The ODS phone number is 404-894-2563.

COURSE SCHEDULE *

**Subject to change. Refer to T-square for the most up-to-date schedule and assignments.*

MODULE 1: LOCATING SPORTS STUDIES

Tuesday, January 6th

Course Introduction

Thursday, January 8th

The Political Economy of Soccer: Guest Lecture, Dr. Kirk Bowman, Georgia Tech

Tuesday, January 13th

Project 1 (Group) **INTRODUCTION**: Looking for Absences in Georgia Tech's Sports History

Archives **ORIENTATION**

Meet in Georgia Tech Archives (lower floor of the Crosland Tower/Library East)

Thursday, January 15th

Socio-Historical Aspects of Sports

@GaTechSST **INTRODUCTION**

Tuesday, January 20th

Project 1 (Group) **WORK DAY**

Meet in Georgia Tech Archives

Thursday, January 22nd

Project 1 (Group) **WORK DAY**

Tuesday, January 27th

Project 1 (Group) **PRESENTATIONS**

Project 1 (Group) Subject Guides **DUE**

MODULE 2: (NEW) MEDIA & SPORTS

Thursday, January 29th

Sports in/and the Media

Tuesday, February 3rd

Project 2 (Individual) **INTRODUCTION**: Analyzing Sports Media

Thursday, February 5th

Sports Analytics and Predictive Modeling: Guest Lecture, Dr. Joel Sokol, Georgia Tech

Tuesday, February 10th

Sports Analytics and Computer Technology: Guest Lecture, Dr. John Stasko, Georgia Tech

Thursday, February 12th

New Media & Sports

MODULE 3: LOCAL, NATIONAL, & GLOBAL SPORTS

Tuesday, February 17th

Sports, History, & Biography: Guest Lecture, Dr. Johnny Smith, Georgia Tech

Thursday, February 19th

Local Sport

Tuesday, February 24th

The Politics of Sports Stadia: Guest Lecture, Dr. Benjy Flowers, Georgia Tech

Thursday, February 26th

National, International & Global Sport

Tuesday, March 3rd

Sporting Mega-Events: Guest Lecture, Dr. Mary McDonald, Georgia Tech

Thursday, March 5th

Sport (for) Development

Tuesday, March 10th

Paralympic Sports: Guest Lecture, Jeff Jones, BlazeSports

Thursday, March 12th

MODULE 3 EXAM

March 17-19 SPRING BREAK

MODULE 4: SPORTS SCIENCE & MEDICINE

Tuesday, March 24th

Understanding Sports Science

Thursday, March 26th

Applied Physiology: Guest Lecture, Dr. Mindy Millard-Stafford, Georgia Tech

Tuesday, March 31st

Sports Engineering: Guest Lecture, Dr. Michelle LaPlaca, Georgia Tech

Thursday, April 2nd

Examining Risk and Sports Medicine

Tuesday, April 7th

Athletic Training: Guest Lecture, TBA

Thursday, April 9th

MODULE 4 EXAM

Project 3 (Individual) **INTRODUCTION:** The Concussion Crisis

MODULE 5: THE CONCUSSION CRISIS

Tuesday, April 14th

The Sociology of Concussions

Thursday, April 16th

League of Denial (Documentary)

Tuesday, April 21st

Concussions in the Media

Thursday, April 23rd

The Science of Concussions

FINAL EXAMS

Project 3 **DUE by Thursday, April 30th, 2:50pm**