

## **COMM 381: Issues in Contemporary Sport**

**4 Units**

Spring Mon/Weds 8:30-9:50pm

**Location: ANN L101**

**Instructor: Rook Campbell, PhD**

**Office Hours: Mon/Wed, 12:00 to 2:00pm**

**Contact Info: rook.campbell@usc.edu**

### **I. Course Description**

As an inquiry on conditions of modernity, this course takes the subject of sport as a lens by which to better understand issues of identity and social agency. Through an interdisciplinary approach of communication, anthropology, journalism, political philosophy, and cultural studies scholarship, our curriculum sets out to reconnect individual, communal, and institutional approaches to contemporary sport. Working to specify the meaning and consequences of sport as body culture, our studies begin with the character of sport, its geographies and technologies before then concentrating upon sport business and labor, athlete activism, and subculture sport. Ultimately, we are concerned with the specific ways sport practices reflect and come to underpin dynamics of inclusion, exclusion, and differential status for some and not others.

### **II. Overall Learning Objectives and Assessment**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand sport as both a mirror of the social, political fabric of contemporary life and as an important vehicle of power and change.
- Analyze sport in relation to contemporary, thorny issues of violence, racism, sexism, ageism, and exclusion of various sorts.
- Assess sport representations and messaging, while raising new questions of how sport provides indicators of who we are and aspire to be collectively.

### **III. Attendance & Class Policy**

Students are required to attend class regularly, to contribute to class discussions, and to do weekly reading. Attendance in lecture is important: there is significant material covered in lecture that is not in the reading and you cannot pass the course if you do not attend most of the lectures. The class learning modules are specifically noted, important components to the class participation mark. Because the lectures, discussions, readings and course assignments are all vitally linked, it is critical that you keep up with the schedule.

Students who miss more than **three lectures** will have their grades reduced and risk failing the course.

Because our seminar format emphasizes student interaction, involves debate, and presents case study material, laptop usage is at the discretion of the professor. This policy is to ensure dynamic classroom participation. Please be prepared to take notes the old fashion way. Exceptions for note taking accommodation are possible by request.

**Seminar Social Media:**

Twitter: @Cabinet48

Class Hashtag: #sporthodox

Additional Social Media

Annenberg Institute of Sport Media and Society: @AnnenbergSports and #AISMS

**IV. Assignment Submission Policy:**

All assignments are due on the dates specified. Lacking prior discussion and agreement with the instructor, late assignments will automatically be given a grade of F.

Assignments must be submitted in class and upon request also via Blackboard.

**V. Grading Breakdown**

<b>Assessment Components</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Seminar Participation & Modules	15%
Exposé	10%
Analysis Paper	20%
Midterm	20%
Research & Portfolio Project	35%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**V. Course Grading Policy**

There are two analysis papers, an exposé and a research paper due in this class. The details of each analysis paper and individual exposé assignments will be given in approximately one week before due dates. Papers must be presented in hard copy as well as word (not google doc) formats. Late papers will not be accepted. If you have an emergency that impacts your ability to turn your paper in on time, you need to contact the professor **before** the paper is due. Please consult the Exposé and Module Guidelines for submission details.

**If you are unable to turn in an assignment due to illness or a personal emergency, you must provide written documentation that will allow you to be excused, or**

**discuss your situation with me in a timely manner. Do no wait until the end of the semester to sort things out.**

In order to pass this class you will need to complete ALL of the assignments. Failure to complete one or more of them will result in an F in the class.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A/A- outstanding, thoughtful and enthusiastic work
- B+/B above average work, demonstrating good insight into assignment
- B-/C+ needs improvement on ideas, argument and follow through
- C and below fulfilling the bare minimum and showing little understanding of the material

Each assignment will be worth 100 points and will be converted to a percentage score depending upon the weight assigned to each. Your percentage scores won the assignments will be totaled and translated to a letter grade per the scale shown below:

95% to 100%: A	80% to 83%: B-	67% to 69%: D+
90% to 94%: A-	77% to 79%: C+	64% to 66%: D
87% to 89%: B+	74% to 76%: C	60% to 63%: D-
84% to 86%: B	70% to 73%: C-	0% to 59%: F

If you have concerns regarding a grade on a given assignment, you must appeal it in writing, stating the reasons why you feel the grade is inaccurate, within one week of receiving the graded assignment. No late appeals will be accepted for review.

## **VII. Required Texts\***

Carrington, Ben. 2010. *Race, Sport and Politics*. Sage, London.

Gardner, Thomas. 2014. *Poverty Creek Journal*. Tupelo Press, North Adams.

Hartill, Michael. 2016. *Sexual Abuse in Youth Sports: A Sociocultural Analysis*. Routledge, New York.

McBee, Thomas Page. 2018. *Amateur: A True Story About What Makes a Man*. Schuster and Simon, New York.

\*All other weekly required readings (articles and book chapters) can be found under the content section of the class Blackboard page.

### VIII. Important Dates

<b>Midterm</b>	--	<b>11 March</b>
<b>Research &amp; Portfolio Proposals</b>	--	<b>1 April</b>
<b>Research &amp; Portfolio Presentation</b>	--	<b>29 April</b>
<b>Online Finalized Portfolio Sites</b>	--	<b>11 May</b>

### IX. Course Schedule COMM 381: Reading and Weekly Breakdown\*

\***Important note to students:** Be advised that this syllabus is subject to change – and probably will change – based on the progress of the class, news events, and/or guest speaker availability.

#### **Week One: 13 & 15 January**

##### **Overview: Sport in Contemporary Society**

Besnier, Niko; Brownell, Susan. 2012. "Sport, Modernity, and the Body." *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Vol 41. pp 443-459.

#### **Week Two: 22 January (Dr. Martin Luther King Observance Day)**

##### **Sport Idealism**

Eichberg, Henning. 1998. "The Enclosure of the Body: The Historic Relativity of 'Health', 'Nature' and the Environment of Sport" in *Body Cultures*. Routledge, New York. Selected Reading: pp. 47-63.

Guttman, Allen. 2002. *The Olympics: A History of the Modern Games*. University of Illinois Press: Chicago. Selected Reading: Chapter 1.

##### **Extended Reading**

Bale, John. 2004. *Running Cultures: Racing in Time and Space*. Routledge, New York. Selected Readings: "Running Cultures" Chapters 2.

Madalinski, Tara. 2009 "The Nature of Sport" in *Sport, Technology, and the Body: The Nature of Performance*. Routledge: New York. Selected Reading: pp14-30.

#### **Week Three: 27 & 29 January**

##### **Rules of the Game: Integrity, Cheating and Corruption**

###### *Monday*

Bale, John. 2004. *Running Cultures: Racing in Time and Space*. Routledge, New York. Selected Readings: "Ways of Running" Chapters 1. (pp. 9-28; 34-36)

Gardner, Thomas. 2014. *Poverty Creek Journal*. Tupelo Press, North Adams.

###### *Wednesday*

Caillois, Roger. 2001. *Man, Play and Games*. Paris: Free Press. Selected Readings: Chapters 1-2.

##### **Extended Reading**

Booth, Douglas. 2007. "The consecration of sport: idealism in social science theory." *The International Journal of History of Sport*. Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 1-19.

-- Analysis No. 1 | 29 January --

**Week Four: 3 & 5 February**

**Sport Integrity and the Gender Binary**

*Monday*

Specifying Sport Integrity discussion continued...

McBee, Thomas Page. 2018. *Amateur: A True Story About What Makes a Man*. Schuster and Simon, New York. (Reading Selection: 1<sup>st</sup> half of text)

*Wednesday*

McBee, Thomas Page. 2018. *Amateur: A True Story About What Makes a Man*. Schuster and Simon, New York. (Read Selection : Entire book)

*Additional Reading:*

Karkazis, Katrina; Jordan-Young, Rebecca M. 2019. *Testosterone: An Unauthorized Biography*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge.

Magdalinski, Tara. 2009. "'Those Girls with Sideburns': Enhancing the Female Body" in *Sport, Technology and the Body: The Nature of Performance*. Routledge: New York. (91-108)

Wacquant, Lois. 1995. "The Pugilist Points of View: How Boxers Think and Feel about Their Trade." *Theory and Society*. Vol. 24, No. 4. pp. 489-535. Selected readings: 494-500. Available Online: <https://publicsociety.berkeley.edu/publications/producing/wacquant.pdf>

**Week Five: 10 & 12 February**

**Regulated Bodies**

*Monday*

-- Guest | Schuyler Bailar, 10 February --

*Wednesday*

Levy, Ariel. 2009. "Either/Or: Sports, sex and the case of Caster Semenya." *New Yorker*. 30 November.

Hutchinson, Alex. 2015. "An Imperfect Dividing Line." *New Yorker*. 27 March.

Kelner, Martha; Rudd, James. 2017. "Caster Semenya could be forced to undertake hormone therapy for future Olympics." *The Guardian*. 3 July.

[https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/jul/03/caster-semenya-could-be-forced-to-undertake-hormone-therapy-for-future-olympics?CMP=fb\\_gu](https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/jul/03/caster-semenya-could-be-forced-to-undertake-hormone-therapy-for-future-olympics?CMP=fb_gu)

**Week Six: 19 February (No Class Monday, Presidents Day)**

**Sport Integrity: Bigger, Faster, Stronger**

Stewart, R. 1989. "The Nature of Sport Under Capitalism and its Relationship to the Capitalist Labour Process." *Sporting Traditions*. Vol. 6, No. 1. pp. 43-61.

Guttman, Allen. 1978. *From Ritual to Record: The Nature of Modern Sports*. New York: Columbia University Press. Selected Readings: Chapter 1 & 2\*

**Extended Reading**

- Booth, Douglas. 2007. "The consecration of sport: idealism in social science theory." *The International Journal of History of Sport*. Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 1-19.
- Brohm, Jean-Marie. 1976. *Sport: A Prison of Measured Time*. Billing and Sons: Worcester. Selected Readings.

**-- Portfolio Selection No. 1 | On Gender, 19 February --**

**Week Seven: 24 & 26 February**

**Symbols of the Nation: Identity and Memory**

Dyreson, M. 1998, *Making the American Team: Sport, Culture, and the Olympic Experience*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press. Selected readings: Chapters 1 & 2.

Vigarello, George. 1991. "The Tour de France" in Nora, Pierre (ed) *On Memory: The Construction of the French Past*. Pp. 469-500.

**Extended Reading**

Dauncey, H; Hare, G. 2000. World Cup France '98. Metaphors, meaning and values. *International Review for Sociology of Sport*. v35. No. 3. pp. 331-347.

Dubois, Laurent. 2018. "France's Ghosts Return for the World Cup." *The Atlantic*. 14 July.

Krasnoff, Lindsay. 2016. "Politics, culture, identity make Les Bleus' place in France complicated." *Sports Illustrated*. 24 June.

**-- Portfolio Selection No. 2 | Sport Paraphernalia, 26 February --**

**Week Eight: 2 & 4 March**

**Monday**

**Media and Money Interests as Sport Game Changers**

Rowe, David. 2009. "Power Trip: Sports and Media" *International Journal of Sport Management and Marketing*. Vol. 6, No.2, pp. 150-166.

Rowe, David. 2015. "Money, Myth and the Big Match: The Political Economy of the Sports Media." in *Sociological Perspectives on Sport: The Games Outside the Games* (ed David Karen and Robert E. Washington) Chapter 16.

**Additional Reading**

Travers, Ann. 2009. "The Sport Nexus and Gender Injustice." *Studies in Social Justice*. Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 79-101.

Zimbalist, Andrew. 2005 "Organisational models of professional team sports leagues". In *Handbook of Economics of Sport*. Available Online: Chapter 46 <http://www.ahmetguvener.com/wp-content/uploads/Handbook-on-the-Economics-of-Sport.pdf#page=462> [note: online content not blackboard]

**Wednesday**

**Sport Violence, Bodies and Sexual Abuse**

Hartill, Michael. 2016. *Sexual Abuse in Youth Sports: A Sociocultural Analysis*. Routledge, New York. Selected Readings: Chapters 4-5.

Aly Raisman. 2017. "This is Survival." *The Players Tribune*. 7 December. Available Online: <https://www.theplayertribune.com/aly-raisman-gymnast-olympian/>

### **Week Nine: 9 & 11 March**

#### **Sport Violence, Bodies and Sexual Abuse**

Hartill, Michael. 2016. *Sexual Abuse in Youth Sports: A Sociocultural Analysis*.

Routledge, New York. Selected Readings: Chapters 4-5.

Aly Raisman. 2017. "This is Survival." *The Players Tribune*. 7 December. Available

Online: <https://www.theplayerstribune.com/aly-raisman-gymnast-olympian/>

-- Midterm\* | 11 March --

-- Spring Break | 15 - 22 March --

### **Week Ten: 23 & 25 March**

#### **Athlete Activists**

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem. 2015. "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: The Importance of Athlete

Activists" *Time*. Available Online: <http://time.com/4114002/kareem-abdul-jabbar-athlete-activists/>

Kaufman, Peter; Wolff, Eli. 2010. "Playing and Protesting: Sport as a Vehicle for Social Change." *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*. Vol. 34. No. 2. pp. 154-177.

Available Online: <https://faculty.newpaltz.edu/peterkaufman/files/Playing-and-Protesting-Article.pdf>

Eco, Umberto. 1969. "Sports Chatter." *Travels in Hyperreality*. London: Vintage 1998, pp. 159-165.

#### **Extended Reading**

Cottrell, Patrick and Nelson, Travis. 2011. "Not Just the Games? Power, Protest and Politics at the Olympics." *European Journal of International Relations*. Vol. 17, No. 4. pp. 729-53.

### **Week Eleven: 30 March and 1 April**

Abdurraqib, Hanif. 2017. "It rained in Ohio on the Night Allen Iverson Hit Michael Jordan with a Crossover." *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us*. Two Dollar Radio Books, Columbus.

Carrington, Ben. 2010. *Race, Sport and Politics*. Sage, London. Selected Reading: Chapters 1-3.

Denzin, Norman. 2001. "Representing Michael". In *Michael Jordan Inc.*. New York: SUNY. pp 2-13.

Leung, Maxwell. 2013. "Jeremy Lin's Model Minority Problem," *Contexts*. Vol. 12: pp. 52-56.

*Wednesday*

#### **Sport and Social Do-Gooding**

Giulianotti, R. 2015. "Corporate Social Responsibility in Sport: Critical Issues and Future Possibilities." *Corporate Governance*. 15(2), pp. 243-248. Available

Online: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1108/CG-10-2014-0120>

Sugden, John. 2010. "Critical Left-Realism and Sport Interventions in Divided

Societies." *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*. Vol. 45, No. 3. 253-272. Available Online: <http://users.polisci.wisc.edu/schatzberg/ps616/sugden2010.pdf>

-- **Portfolio Selection No. 3\* | On Sport Do-Gooding, 1 April** --  
-- **Research & Portfolio Project Proposals (Abstracts) | 1 April** --

**Week Twelve: 6 & 8 April**  
**Re-Seeing Sport as Body Culture**

Andrews, David; Newman, Joshua; Thorpe, Holly eds. 2019. *Sport, Physical Culture and the Moving Body: Materialism, Technologies and Ecologies*. Routledge, New York. (Selected Readings).

**Week Thirteen: 13 & 15 April**  
**Sport Exclusion: Team and Individual**

Atkinson, Michael. 2018. *Sport, Mental Illness and Sociology*. Emerald Publishing, London. (Selected Readings)

-- **Alone in the Game | David McFarland, 15 April** --

**Week Fourteen: 20 & 22 April**  
**The Moving Body: Somatic and Emotional Sportscares**

Sloterdijk, Peter. 2013. *You Must Change Your Life*. Polity Press, New York. (Selected Readings: "Introduction: On the Anthropotechnic Turn", Chapter 1).

Ballard, Chris. 2014. "Twilight: The Saga of Kobe Bryant." *Sports Illustrated*. August. Available Online: <http://www.si.com/longform/kobe/>

Cohen, Rich. 2002. "The Boys of Winter: In Praise of the Aging Athlete" *Harpers Magazine*.

*Additional Reading*

Bryant, Kobe. 2015. "Dear Basketball" *The Players Tribune*. 29 November. Available Online: <http://www.theplayerstribune.com/dear-basketball/>

-- **Guest | Anne Brashier, 20 April** --  
-- **Portfolio Selection No. 4 | The Sport Affect, 22 April** --

**Week Fifteen: 27 & 29 April**  
**Assessing Modern Sport: Winners and Losers**

Besnier, Niko; Brownell, Susan. 2012. "Sport, Modernity, and the Body." *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Vol 41.

-- **Writing Workshop, 27 April** --  
-- **Research & Portfolio Project Presentations Due | 29 April** --

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-- **Online Finalized Portfolio Sites Due | Final Exam Date, 11 May** --

**X. Add/Drop Dates**

**Friday, January 31:** Last day to register and add classes for Session 001



**Friday, January 31:** Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W,” except for Monday-only classes, and receive a refund for Session 001

**Tuesday, February 4:** Last day to drop a Monday-only class without a mark of “W” and receive a refund for Session 001

**Friday, February 28:** Last day to drop a course without a mark of “W” on the transcript for Session 001. [Please drop any course by the end of week three (or the 20 percent mark of the session) to avoid tuition charges.]

**Friday, February 28:** Last day to change pass/no pass to letter grade for Session 001. [All major and minor courses must be taken for a letter grade.]

**Friday, April 3:** Last day to drop a class with a mark of “W” for Session 001

## **XI. Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

### **Academic Conduct**

#### *Plagiarism*

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### **Support Systems**

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298*  
[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following *protected characteristics*: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*  
[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

