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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Components</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation &amp; Modules</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposé</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Portfolio Project</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95% to 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% to 94%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87% to 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84% to 86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% to 83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77% to 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74% to 76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% to 73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67% to 69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64% to 66%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% to 63%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% to 59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*


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

VIII. Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>11 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Portfolio Proposals</td>
<td>1 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Portfolio Presentation</td>
<td>29 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Finalized Portfolio Sites</td>
<td>11 May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Sport Idealism

Extended Reading

Week Three: 27 & 29 January

Rules of the Game: Integrity, Cheating and Corruption

Monday

Wednesday

Extended Reading
-- Analysis No. 1 | 29 January --

Week Four: 3 & 5 February
Sport Integrity and the Gender Binary
Monday
Specifying Sport Integrity discussion continued...

Wednesday

Additional Reading:

Week Five: 10 & 12 February
Regulated Bodies
Monday
-- Guest | Schuyler Bailar, 10 February --

Wednesday

Week Six: 19 February (No Class Monday, Presidents Day)
Sport Integrity: Bigger, Faster, Stronger

*Extended Reading*

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

Week Seven: 24 & 26 February
Symbols of the Nation: Identity and Memory

Extended Reading

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

Week Eight: 2 & 4 March
Monday
Media and Money Interests as Sport Game Changers

Additional Reading

Wednesday
Sport Violence, Bodies and Sexual Abuse
Week Nine: 9 & 11 March
Sport Violence, Bodies and Sexual Abuse

--- Midterm* | 11 March ---

Week Ten: 23 & 25 March
Athlete Activists

Extended Reading

Week Eleven: 30 March and 1 April

Wednesday
Sport and Social Do-Gooding
Sugden, John. 2010. "Critical Left-Realism and Sport Interventions in Divided

-- 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  

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

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

**Week Fourteen: 20 & 22 April**  
The Moving Body: Somatic and Emotional Sportscapes  
August. Available Online: http://www.si.com/longform/kobe/


Additional Reading  
-- 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  

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

*****

-- 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
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
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
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, 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
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.