

The University of Calgary
Department of Sociology

Sociology 601
SEMINAR IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT

Winter 2009

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Kevin Young
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OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesday, 10 - 11 a.m., or by appointment
CLASS TIME:	Thursday 3.30 pm (170 minutes)
CLASSROOM:	SS 921

COURSE SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

Whether one takes an historical, long-term view, or a more present-centred, 'here-and-now' approach, sport has always 'mattered'. The sociological study of sport may still be viewed with some justification as a subfield in its infancy, but it is clear that the sweep of theoretical approaches brought to bear on sport-related behaviours, processes, and structures is no less impressive than in other subdisciplinary fields often perceived as more mature and sophisticated. Some theories have been more pronounced than others at different stages in the development of the subfield, some have had more of a lasting impact, and other perspectives, despite great promise, have been curiously under-utilized. This graduate seminar encourages students to think sociologically about sport. Based around fundamental questions such as "Why do we need sociological theory?", and "How do we think with theory?", its principle goal is to explore the range of sociological tools available for understanding one of contemporary society's most important and compelling social institutions -- sport.

In addition to focusing on how to understand sport theoretically/sociologically, an additional, and no less important, underlying objective of the seminar is to encourage students to take their own professional socialization seriously. Students will have an opportunity to develop and improve their thinking regarding four dimensions of academic life: (i) professional and academic writing; (ii) delivering presentations to an audience of peers; (iii) critical self-assessment and appraisal; (iv) cv's, conference presentations, and academic publications.

REQUIRED READING

The course is organized around one core book*, which is available in the bookstore:

Joseph Maguire and Kevin Young (Eds.). (2002). Theory, Sport, & Society. Oxford, UK: JAI (an imprint of Elsevier Press).

* This is the only the second time that the Department of Sociology has offered a graduate seminar in this substantive area and, as such, the seminar is somewhat experimental both in content and in format. This is especially the case given the very small class enrollment. The

Maguire/Young volume will constitute a central source and will be read more-or-less in full, but it will not represent the *only* reading material. As the ‘shape’ of the seminar becomes clearer and, as importantly at this level, student needs/interests unfold, additional readings will be provided for students on a regular (weekly) basis by the instructor.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. A careful and punctual reading of the required material.
2. Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions and questions. (The University of Calgary has no policy of mandatory attendance, but attendance is strongly recommended, especially since there is a class participation component. Missed class material will not be summarized over email for individual students).
3. Advance notice to the instructor or the Department of Sociology main office (403-220 - 6501) if unable to comply with the schedule of exams. Students who do not provide this advance notice may not be allowed to retake exams. Also see note on “Academic Accommodation” and “Policy for Students who Miss Exams” below.
4. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with University regulations regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offence. The University Calendar provides a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.
5. Students who are having difficulty with the course are advised to contact the instructor immediately to discuss the situation.
6. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with changes (additions, deletions, shifts) to this outline made in class.
7. The University of Calgary provides a “Safe Walk” service to any location on campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 403-220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around campus.
8. Please note the following:
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment, she/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
9. Ethics Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects -- including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation -- must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

10. Keep this outline. It will be your course reference throughout the term. Most of the questions students ask are answered on it.

Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, 403-220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to instructors immediately once class begins.

SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed in the following five ways:

1. 4 student presentations, each of approximately 20-30 minutes (10% each, total 40%).
(Presentations should *critically* describe, explain and assess the theorist/theoretical approach under consideration in detail -- its scope and purpose, and its main exemplars, concepts, and methods. Wherever possible, students should indicate how the approach helps us understand aspects of sport in society using concrete examples. Presentations should also include a 1-2 page summary sheet to be handed in *before* the presentation commences.
2. 2 in-class written responses to video material (5% each, total 10%).
(During two classes, unannounced video content will be shown and, following a class break where thoughts may be gathered, students will each have up to 20 minutes to make a case for understanding the content of the video using an agreed perspective. This perspective is *not* restricted to the approaches they have previously presented on in class).
3. Following two separate classes by Guest Speakers, students will have one week to write up a 'Theoretical Reflections' response, to be handed in at the start of the next class. They may use one or more sociological approaches to make sense of and critically appraise the Guest Speaker's presentation. 'Reflections' should be no more than 3 double-spaced pages in length and contain conventionally formatted references to both material in the main course book and Additional Reading package. Each 'Reflection' is worth 5%.

NB. Exercises 2 and 3 have been staggered (that is, they occur on alternate weeks) to provide a break for students, at least in format.

4. Term paper (30%). To be handed in on Thursday April 16 (some flexibility will be allowed).
5. Class participation (10%).

More detailed information/guidelines on each of these forms of assessment will be provided in class. **Also, because of the small class enrollment, the Instructor is willing to discuss and, if preferred, adjust the system of assessment to best suit student needs.**

NB: Public speaking is often intimidating; few people enjoy it. This difficulty is acknowledged and built in to the allocation of the grade. However, this seminar places emphasis on the

creation, by the professor and students alike, of an interactive and respectful classroom climate conducive to listening, learning, and critiquing. Students are required to attend and contribute to class discussion and debates. Registration will be kept, and student involvement noted.

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WHO MISS EXAMS

You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam or meet with a scheduled deadline. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student *has* the physical or emotional problem rather than *after* recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are *not* valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

GRADING SCALE

A+ (95>)	A (85-94)	A- (80-84)
B+ (77-79)	B (74-76)	B- (70-73)
C+ (67-69)	C (64-66)	C- (60-63)
D+ (55-59)	D (50-54)	
F (<49)		

SEMINAR FORMAT AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

The basic format of topics, readings and seminar discussions will be as follows. Once again, students should expect to be provided with additional readings each week. The Maguire & Young volume is simply a starting point. The system for receiving and distributing additional readings will be discussed at the first meeting. *The theorists/approaches identified below are suggestions only. Students wishing to do so may select theorists/approaches not identified on this outline.*

DATE	SUBJECT	READING
Mon. Jan. 12	WINTER SESSION CLASSES BEGIN	
Thurs. Jan. 15	Introduction to the course: Objectives, topics, student roles *Professional socialization discussion*	Pref. & Intro. to M&Y Additional Reading (AR)
Thurs. Jan. 22	Sociology of Sport as a subdiscipline (Dr. Young)	Pref. & Intro. to M&Y Additional Reading (AR)

Thurs. Jan. 29	Karl Marx (student presentation) Emile Durkheim (student presentation)	Chapter 1 & AR Chapter 2 & AR
Thurs. Feb. 5	Max Weber (student presentation) George Herbert Mead (student presentation)	Chapter 3 & AR Chapter 4 & AR
Thurs. Feb. 12	Feminism (student presentation) Cultural Studies (student presentation)	Chapter 5 & AR Chapter 7 & AR
February 16-20	READING WEEK: NO CLASSES	
Thurs. Feb. 26	Postmodernism (student presentation) Figurational Sociology (student presentation)	Chapter 8 & AR Chapter 9 & AR
Thurs. Mar. 5	Pierre Bourdieu (student presentation) Michel Foucault (student presentation)	Chapter 10 & AR Chapter 12 & AR
Thurs. Mar. 12	Social Network Analysis (student presentation) Synthetic Approach (student presentation)	Chapter 11 & AR M&Y Chap. & AR
Thurs. Mar. 19	Guest Speaker: One-week 'Theoretical Reflections' assignment	
Thurs. Mar. 26	VIDEO: In-class 'Theory Application' student responses	
Thurs. April 2	Guest Speaker: One-week 'Theoretical Reflections' assignment	
Thurs. April 9	VIDEO: In-class 'Theory Application' student responses	
Thurs. April 16	Course review, conclusion, and implications for further study *Professional socialization discussion* Term paper (30%) due in	
Fri. April 17	WINTER SESSION CLASSES END	

At the completion of this course each student will be asked to complete a Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) form.

