

Schedule of Course Activities

Topic	Question(s)	Reading	Assignment Due
Part I: The Sports Fans' Experience			
Introduction to course			
The Uniqueness of the Sports Fan	Why are we sports fans?	<u>Hate Mail</u> , introduction <u>Hate Mail</u> , "Your Team..." ... "My Team"...	
The Sports Stadium: Influence of the Venue	How does the venue impact our lives as sports fans? What if games were always played at neutral sites? In what ways is the sports stadium parallel to other key sites in American culture?	<u>Die in Peace</u> , "Seat Change" <u>Jim Murray</u> , "Is L.A. too Wimpy to Build New Stadium?"	
Urban Culture and Sport	How do specific athletes build relationships with the cities in which they represent? What happens when players leave cities, and then return?	<u>Jim Murray</u> , "He Was the Key to the City" <u>L.A. Times</u> , "SuperSonics' move leaves a bitter taste" <u>New York Times Magazine</u> , "Where the Thunder Comes Dribbling Down the Plain"	
Comparing America's Biggest Events	Compare and contrast fan experience of the NFL (Super Bowl), MLB (World Series), NBA, NCAA Tournament, and golf (e.g., the Masters), keeping in mind discussions of the sports stadium and urban culture.	<u>New York Times</u> , "Evolution of a Tournament" <u>Saturday Evening Post</u> , "Tiger's Greatest Shot"	
Sport as Means for Competition and Friendship	What do we think of this maniacal subculture? How does the past influence the present, in terms of how people build friendships with those fans that bleed the same colors?	<u>Blue Blood</u>	
Group Presentation/Discussion (Group 1)			Prepare two (2) questions for discussion.
Part II: The Sports Fan and the Media			
Introduction to sports and the media	In what ways has sports media evolved over time?	<u>ESPN</u> excerpt	Response Paper 1
Sports Media in the 70s	How would your fan experience be altered if you experienced sports media influences of		

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A Digitized World	By comparison to the 70s, 80s and even 90s, sports media has gone almost completely digital. On a daily basis, how does this shift impact your life?	<u>JMCQ</u> , "From On-Air to Online"	
Relationship Building	What role does the sports broadcaster play in your life?	Simmons, "Gus, Kevin, more" YouTube videos	
Overflowing Content	Do fans win, given the claim that there is an overflowing amount of content? What do we make of the fact that networks have made celebrities out of their own employees to fill air time, simply because athletes, coaches, etc. are not available 24-7?	Tiano, "New Sports Media"	
Trumping Negativity	Many say that sports are different today than they used to be. Scandals prevail, and these, many say are a reflection of the way sport has evolved. Some say, however, that the media represents these scandals in a different light. How would you respond?	<u>Game of Shadows</u> <u>New York Times Magazine</u> , "This Noise is Killing Me"	
Group Presentation/Discussion (Group 2)			Prepare two (2) questions for discussion.
Part III: The Spirit of American Sports			
The Making of the Sports Hero	Who are your heroes? What values do we associate with sports heroes?		Response Paper 2
Making Sports Fun: The NCAA Tournament as a Case Example	How does the NCAA Tournament manage to portray positivity in such a fun and meaningful way? Does the media have anything to do with this?	<u>Last Dance</u> excerpt	
Group Presentation/Discussion (Group 3)			Prepare two (2) questions for discussion.