

Provisional Syllabus Sociology of Sport (Spring 2012)

DINO NUMERATO

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Course description: The sphere of sport is not exclusively an apolitical social sphere of fun and leisure, but also a “serious” and sociologically relevant social sphere, whose importance has been increasingly recognized in mainstream sociological analyses. Sociological analyses of sport have enhanced a better understanding of major social developments, as sport not only mirrors major social developments but also contributes to transform them. The forthcoming Olympic Games in London 2012 will offer another timely opportunity to revisit the social significance of sport. This mega-event, similarly to many less visible sport-related activities, such as proto-religious fan rituals during weekly football matches, daily physical activities practiced as part of healthy lifestyles or volunteers’ involvement in sport clubs, will be addressed by this introductory course in Sociology of sport. The main objective of this course, divided equally into lectures and seminars, will be to equip students with conceptual and analytical tools and methodological instruments necessary to carry-out a critical and theoretically informed scrutiny of sport-related topics. The aim of the course will be to present major historical developments of the sub-discipline of sociology of sport, to provide students with the overview of key scholars in the field, theoretical concepts of the sub-discipline and outline the links between sports sociology and general sociological theory. Particular attention will be given to the relationship between sports and politics, mass media, identity, globalisation, civil society, and social stratification.

Evaluation

- Participation and discussion - 10%
- Presentation (presentation of an outline of the theoretical background and final essay is highly recommended) – 10%
- Final essay – 60 % (due 31 May 2012)
- Research Project (connection between final essay and research project is highly recommended, due 31 May 2012) - 20%

The students are welcomed to discuss via email (dino.numerato@unibocconi.it) their suggestions for topics for presentations, final essays, research projects or any other issues before the course begins. The students are also invited to consult additional resources (at the bottom of the syllabus), while developing their ideas related to the course assignments.

Course structure

1) An Introduction: Main theoretical approaches and conceptual frameworks

ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF SPORT

SPORT THROUGH THE LENS OF CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENTS OF MODERN SPORT

Readings:

Donnelly, P. (2003). Sport and Social Theory. In B. Houlihan (Ed.), *In Sport and Society: A Student Introduction*. (pp. 11-27). London: Sage.

Guttmann, A. (2000). The Development of Modern Sports. In J. J. Coakley & E. Dunning (Eds.), *Handbook of Sports Studies* (pp. 248-259). London: Sage.

2) Sport, social status and identity

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

THE FIELD OF SPORT PRACTICE AND SYMBOLIC NATURE OF SPORT

SPORT AND SUBCULTURES

Readings:

Bourdieu, P. (1988). Program for a sociology of sport. *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 5(2): 153-161.

Wheaton, B., & Beal, B. (2003). 'Keeping It Real': Subcultural Media and the Discourses of Authenticity in Alternative Sport. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 38(2), 155-176.

3) Sport, civil society and politics

SPORT AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

SPORT AND POLITICS

SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Readings:

Roubal, P. (2003). Politics of Gymnastics: Mass Gymnastic Displays Under Communism in Central and Eastern Europe. *Body & Society*, 9(2), 1-25.

Tiessen, R. (2011). Global Subjects or Objects of Globalisation? The promotion of global citizenship in organisations offering sport for development and/or peace programmes. *Third World Quarterly*, 32(3), 571-587.

4) Sport and mass media

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF SPORT

SPORT, MARKETING AND SPONSORING

SPORTING HEROES AND CELEBRITIES

Readings:

Smart, B. (2005). Heroism, Fame and Celebrity in the World of Sport. In B. Smart, *The Sport Star* (pp. 1-19), London: Sage.

Scherer, J., & Jackson, S. J. (2008). Cultural Studies and the Circuit of Culture: Advertising, Promotional Culture and the New Zealand All Blacks. *Cultural Studies <=> Critical Methodologies*, 8(4), 507-526.

5) Sport and globalisation

GLOBALISATION, GLOCALISATION

SPORT MEGA-EVENTS

SPORT AND ALTER-GLOBALIZATION MOVEMENT

Readings:

Giulianotti, R. & Klauser, F. (2010). Security Governance and Sport Mega-events: Toward an Interdisciplinary Research Agenda *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*, 34 (1): 49-61

Silk, M. (2011). Towards a Sociological Analysis of London 2012. *Sociology*, 45(5), 733-748.

Additional electronic resources

Sociology of Sport Journal

International Review for the Sociology of Sport

Journal of Sport and Social Issues

Sport in Society

International Journal of Sport Policy

<http://www.playthegame.org/>

<http://www.idrottsforum.org/>

<http://www.sportanddev.org/>