

MDS 312: Sports and Global Culture

December 23-January 9

Instructor: Jayme Scally, PhD
Email: js00182@mix.wvu.edu
Number of Credit Hours: 3
Pre-requisites: None
Repeatability: Not repeatable

Office: 414FF Hodges Hall
Office Hours: Online or in person by
appointment—email me with at least 3
days/times you can meet

Please read the syllabus carefully! It is your responsibility to keep track of due dates

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

“How American Soccer Fans Are Smarter Than Average Americans”. This is the title of a 2013 article claiming that American soccer supporters have a greater sense of global awareness—manifesting through things such as geographic and time zone knowledge, pronunciation of international cities and non-English names, and more—than the typical American. What is it about this fandom that makes this so? This course will examine the influence sports have on our culture--looking at topics including race, religion, nationality, gender, politics and more. We'll look at amateur, college, and professional sports in the US and abroad. We will consider how professional athletes use their status to guide national and international discussions and how these discussions then impact our own lives. Specifically, we will explore how sport influences intercultural awareness, as the field/court/pitch is often where we see diverse individuals coming together for a common goal.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon course completion, a student will be able to:

- Articulate and explain the major issues associated with gender, social class, race, and media, in sports.
- Think critically and articulate how sports impact society as well as how society impacts sports, using disciplinary lenses including politics, education, sociology, communications, and more.
- Demonstrate ability to select and utilize appropriate communication styles and techniques for diverse contexts and purposes, including written and oral communication.

COURSE MATERIALS:

All readings will be provided via links on eCampus or can be found via the WVU library; there are no required materials for purchase. Readings/videos/podcasts are included on the course schedule, beginning on page 2.

ASSIGNMENTS: *More information will be provided on the assignment pages on eCampus.*

Assignment	Due Date	% of grade	Points
Reflective Log	Various	40%	40
<p>You will complete a reflective log of each of our key modules in this course, namely: Foundations of culture; Government & Citizenship; Gender & Education; Activism; Media & Celebrity; and Consolidation.</p> <p>A template for the reflective logs will be shared with you at the beginning of the course as a google doc. You will download this template and save it to your own drive and complete your logs in this file, submitting it regularly throughout the course at each of the various due dates noted on eCampus.</p> <p>Each reflective log should be approximately 2 pages in length, detailing your general observations on the content, connections between the aspects of sport covered and the key culture terminology we discuss, application to previous modules, answers to specific questions for each module, etc. You are encouraged to bring in outside examples in these reflections—links to relevant news articles, social media posts, etc. that help support your points are encouraged.</p> <p>These reflections demonstrate your engaged participation in the course, so they will comprise a large portion of your final grade. Reports will be graded based on completeness and depth of reflection. An A reflection will make clear connections, it will reflect on the material introduced, on outside experiences, and it will include supplemental materials to support the above.</p>			

How has sport influenced MY culture?	12/28	20%	20
<p>In this 3-4 page paper you will identify and analyze an instance of sport influencing your culture. Here your culture could mean your hometown, your friend group, your family, your religion, your ethnicity, your race, etc. This paper must include at least 4 properly cited sources, 1 of which must be scholarly.</p>			

How has sport influenced WVU culture?	1/2	20%	20
<p>In this 3-4 page paper you will identify and analyze an instance of sport influencing our WVU culture. This paper must include at least 4 properly cited sources, 1 of which must be scholarly.</p>			

How has sport influenced ANOTHER culture?	1/6	20%	20
<p>In this 3-4 page paper you will identify and analyze an instance of sport influencing a culture other than your own. This paper must include at least 4 properly cited sources, 1 of which must be scholarly.</p>			

Assignment Due Date Calendar:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	12/23	12/24	12/25	12/26	12/27	12/28
	<i>First Day of Class</i> Reflective Log 1 due				Reflective Log 2 due	How Sport Influenced My Culture paper due
12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4
	Reflective Log 3 due			How Sport Influenced WVU Culture paper due		Reflective Log 4 due
1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8	1/9	1/10	
	How Sport Influenced Another Culture paper due	Reflective Log 5 due		<i>Final Day of Class</i> Reflective Log 6 due	<i>Grades Submitted</i>	

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Dates	Topics
Module 1	<p>Foundations of Culture</p> <p>Introduction to the course and finding our starting point (motivation for taking the course, experience with sports); define culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch: Culture and Society Defined: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPz1va211_M • Read: Paper on sport and culture from the European Council • Watch Khan Academy video on the definitions of citizenship: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVXQvJvfGw
Assignment Due: Reflective Log 1 (5pts)	
Module 2	<p>Government & Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch: Why was India split into two countries? - Haimanti Roy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrcCTgwsjc • Watch: The India-Pakistan Cricket Rivalry: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oxsn6rUm1qA • Read: For India and Pakistan, Cricket Is Never Just a Game • Read: Why Aren't Anti-Racism Efforts in Football Making Any Difference?: https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/anti-racism-history-english-football-kick-it-out/ • Read: BBC Article providing brief overview of kneeling in UK soccer. What's taking the knee and why is it important?: https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-53098516 • Watch: Video from soccer player Wilfred Zaha talking about kneeling and its impact: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtW91ZuwPbc
Assignments Due: Reflective Log 2 (7pts) How has sport influenced MY culture?	
Module 3	<p>Gender & Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Title IX: https://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/ocr/sexoverview.html#:~:text=Title%20IX%20states%20%E2%80%9CNo%20person,provide%20grants%20of%20financial%20assistance • Read: 50 Years of Title IX: How One Law Changed Women's Sports Forever 50 Years of Title IX- How One Law Changed Women's Sports Forever • Watch: Why The US Women's Team Is Great At Soccer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_CSJ89jAmo • Read: Myth of the student-athlete: The college athlete as employee • Watch: Why do Americans go crazy for college sports?: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofHmbzMaA6I

Assignments Due: Reflective Log 3 (7pts)	
Module 4	<p>Activism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Kick these kids off the team and take away their scholarships: Facebook and perceptions of athlete activism at the University of Missouri • Watch: The History of Sports Activism with Dr. Frank Guridy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=an9nQfaqbpw
Assignment Due: Reflective Log 4 (7pts)	
Module 5	<p>Media & Celebrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: College Student Athletes and Social Media: The Psychological Impacts of Twitter Use • Read: Pedal boats and peccadillos: Flintoff sacked after boozy 4am escapade: https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2007/mar/19/cricket.sport • Read: Man overboard: https://www.espnricinfo.com/story/rewind-andrew-flintoffand-the-pedalo-853261 • Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NghHbm9rjg0 • Read: Effects of Sport Celebrity Transgressions: An Exploratory Study
Assignments Due: Reflective Log 5 (7pts) How has sport influenced WVU culture?	
Module 6	<p>Consolidation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this all mean?
Assignments Due: How has sport influenced ANOTHER culture? Reflective Log 6 (7pts)	

GRADING:

Points	97-100	93-96	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Percent	97-100	93-96	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
FINAL GRADE	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Assignments will be returned to students with grades and feedback within one week of the due date. Late assignments will be graded as they are submitted.

COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

The following statements are meant to highlight key aspects of the course and university policies. Please review the full WVU policies here: <https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements>

Late Work

Due dates are listed on this syllabus, though adjustments may occur. Students are expected to actively monitor the course eCampus page and their WVU e-mail. Because of the fast-paced nature of this course late work will only be accepted for up to three days past the stated deadline. **Unexcused late work will be penalized 10% for each day or portion of a day it is late up to this three day maximum.** *No work will be accepted after January 9th.* If you believe you have a valid reason for needing to submit an assignment late it is your responsibility to contact the instructor *prior* to the due date to discuss potential arrangements. Please review the university policies for more on grading and absences that may be impacted late work:

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#text>

Participation and Attendance

You are expected to engage with your classmates, respond to questions, and meet with the instructor as required, available, and necessary. Failure to attend class and to engage will result in lowered overall grade. The WVU Catalog contains the full Attendance Policy:

<http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#enrollmenttext>

Communication

I respond to emails 9-5pm on weekdays, excluding holidays, and you can expect response within 2 business days. All communication—via email, eCampus, or in person—should retain a professional tone and your classmates and I reserve the right to not respond to any communication that does not reflect this.

Academic Integrity Statement

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, instructors will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of their courses. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of

acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University [Academic Standards Policy](#). Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see your instructor before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Academic Standards Policy, including Academic Dishonesty

The WVU Catalog contains the full [Undergraduate Academic Standards Policy](#) and [Graduate Academic and Professional Standards Policy](#).

- [Resources for Faculty and Students for Reporting and Appealing Violations of Academic Standards](#)

Artificial Intelligence Syllabus Statement

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools that can create and develop academic content are not allowed unless permission is given by an instructor. Students must receive instructor permission prior to utilizing AI tools. Unauthorized use of AI tools may result in academic dishonesty charges.

Campus Safety Statement

The WVU Police are committed to creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Part of this mission includes educating the campus community on how to respond to potential campus threats, such as the threat of an active shooter on campus or other suspicious behaviors. Fortunately, WVU Police offer training - both online and in-person - on how to handle a variety of campus safety scenarios. All students are encouraged to visit the [WVU Police](#) webpage, in particular the content under the [Active Shooter](#) training program. Students are also encouraged to report any suspicious behaviors on campus using the [Report a Threat](#) portion of the webpage. Additional materials on campus safety prepared by WVU Police, including special safety tips and training, will also be provided on our eCampus page.

Campus Carry

Consistent with BOG Finance and Administration Rule 5.14, Deadly Weapons, Dangerous Objects, & W. Va. Campus Self-Defense Act, this statement serves as notice that my office is a sole occupancy office, and concealed pistols and revolvers are prohibited in it. Students visiting my office, whether scheduled or unscheduled, are required to appropriately secure any firearms in their possession before entering the office premises. For more information about Rule 5.14, please see <https://safety.wvu.edu/campus-carry>.

Inclusivity Statement

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in your classes, please advise your instructors and make appropriate arrangements with [the Office of Accessibility Services](#).

More information is available at the [Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) website as well.

Incomplete Policy

The WVU Catalog contains the full [Incomplete Policy](#).

Mental Health Statement

Mental health concerns or stressful events can adversely affect your academic performance and social relationships. WVU offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns that you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at the Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CCCPS) website: <https://carruth.wvu.edu/>.

- If you are in need of crisis services, call the CCCPS main number 24/7: (304) 293-4431.

Crisis services are also available through text: Text WVU to 741741 for support 24/7 from a trained Crisis Counselor.

Sexual Misconduct Statement

West Virginia University does not tolerate sexual misconduct, including harassment, stalking, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or relationship violence [[BOG Rule 1.6](#)]. It is important for you to know that there are resources available if you or someone you know needs assistance. You may speak to a member of university administration, faculty, or staff; keep in mind that they have an obligation to report the incident to the [Title IX Coordinator](#).

If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the [Carruth Center](#), 304-293-9355 or 304-293-4431 (24-hour hotline), and locally within the community at the [Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center](#) (RDVIC), 304- 292-5100 or 304-292-4431 (24-hour hotline).

For more information, please consult [WVU's Title IX Office](https://titleix.wvu.edu/resources-offices) (<https://titleix.wvu.edu/resources-offices>).

Reflective Log

You will complete a reflective log of each of our key modules in this course, namely: Foundations of Culture; Government & Citizenship; Gender & Education; Activism; Media & Celebrity; and Consolidation.

A template for the reflective logs will be shared with you at the beginning of the course as a google doc. You will download this template and save it to your own drive and complete your logs in this file, submitting it regularly throughout the course at each of the various due dates noted on eCampus.

Each reflective log should be a minimum of 2 pages in length, detailing your general observations on the content, connections between the aspects of sport covered and the key culture terminology we discuss, application to previous modules, answers to specific questions for each module, etc. You are encouraged to bring in outside examples in these reflections—links to relevant news articles, social media posts, etc. that help support your points are encouraged.

These reflections demonstrate your engaged participation in the course, so they will comprise a large portion of your final grade. Reports will be graded based on completeness and depth of reflection. An A reflection will make clear connections, it will reflect on the material introduced, on outside experiences, and it will include supplemental materials to support the above.

Rubric:

	Unsatisfactory Missing or completely fails to meet minimum expectations for category 0-59%	Approaching Competence Begins to show understanding of the expectations and shows rudimentary understanding of the material and ability to meet requirements 60-69%	Competent Submission meets expectations and shows growing understanding of material and ability to meet requirements 70-79%	Proficient Strong submission that meets expectations and shows understanding of the material and ability to meet requirements 80-89%	Expert Exceeds expectations, demonstrates an advanced understanding of the material and ability to meet requirements. 90-100%
Formatting (page length, font, utilized provided template) 10%	Points: 0	Points: 0.6	Points: 0.7	Points: 0.8	Points: 1
Demonstrates understanding of ability to apply concepts of culture 20%	Points: 0	Points: 1.2	Points: 1.4	Points: 1.6	Points: 2
Outside Connection (provides links, etc. to outside sources that support or exemplify points) 10%	Points: 0	Points: 0.6	Points: 0.7	Points: 0.8	Points: 1
Demonstrates engagement with assigned materials throughout reflection 20%	Points: 0	Points: 1.2	Points: 1.4	Points: 1.6	Points: 2
Sustained reflection on integration between sport and culture 40%	Points: 0	Points: 2.4	Points: 2.8	Points: 3.2	Points: 4

How has sport influenced MY culture?

As we progress through this course you will complete several assignments that demonstrate your ability to both identify aspects of human culture and to relate them to things we see in sport.

Let's define culture as: the beliefs, values, perspectives, and practices of a group of people. This includes the behavior pattern, and norms of this group—these include the rules, forms of communication, assumptions, and the logic and reasoning that are specific to the group.

In this, the first such assignment, you will identify and analyze an instance of sport influencing your culture. So, think about the groups you connect to with shared beliefs, perspectives, etc. This could be the culture of your home state or country, your ethnicity, your religion, your political party, your generation, etc.

Then, think of an instance where sport has impacted that group or aspect of your culture. In the paper, include a summary of what actually happened—assume I have no idea so be sure to include detail. This summary should take maybe ½ a page. The remainder of your paper should talk about the aspect of culture you're covering and show how it changed because of what happened in your chosen sport.

This paper must meet the following guidelines:

- 12 point font, Times or Cambria
- **3-4 pages in length**, 1 inch margins
- Include at least **4 sources** cited properly using APA format. More on APA format can be found at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references>
 - 1 of these sources must be scholarly! That means, it should be a *peer reviewed journal article*.

Rubric:

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Formatting (page length, font) 10%	Points: 0	Points: 0.6	Points: 0.7	Points: 0.8	Points: 1
Includes required APA cited sources 20%	Points: 0	Points: 1.2	Points: 1.4	Points: 1.6	Points: 2
Style (proofread) 10%	Points: 0	Points: 0.6	Points: 0.7	Points: 0.8	Points: 1
Focuses on required culture 20%	Points: 0	Points: 1.2	Points: 1.4	Points: 1.6	Points: 2
Integration between sport and culture 40%	Points: 0	Points: 2.4	Points: 2.8	Points: 3.2	Points: 4

How has sport influenced WVU culture?

As we progress through this course you will complete several assignments that demonstrate your ability to both identify aspects of human culture and to relate them to things we see in sport.

Let's define culture as: the beliefs, values, perspectives, and practices of a group of people. This includes the behavior pattern, and norms of this group—these include the rules, forms of communication, assumptions, and the logic and reasoning that are specific to the group.

In this assignment you will identify and analyze an instance of sport influencing West Virginia University culture. Begin by trying to define or identify WVU culture. What is it that makes WVU, WVU? Is it the majors we have, the places our students come from, is it the community spirit, is it a particular restaurant or bar, etc.?

Then, think of an instance where sport has impacted our school. This can include things like the Backyard Brawl, athletic scholarships, conference memberships, etc. And the impact doesn't have to be positive!

In the paper, include a summary of what actually happened—assume I have no idea so be sure to include detail. This summary should take maybe ½ a page. The remainder of your paper should talk about the aspect of culture you're covering and show how it changed because of what happened in your chosen sport. This section should be more in depth than in the first culture impact paper—we're deeper into the semester now so I'm assuming you're even more skilled at viewing sport through a cultural lens now. It might be useful to go back and look at your feedback on the first paper to see what you should focus on improving or expanding here.

An obvious example of sport impacting WVU culture could be how WVU had a period where it was known more for couch burning after games than anything else. How did this impact WVU? The administration responded to this—what did that change?

This paper must meet the following guidelines:

- 12 point font, Times or Cambria
- **3-4 pages in length**, 1 inch margins
- Include at least **4 sources** cited properly using APA format. More on APA format can be found at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references>
 - 1 of these sources must be scholarly! That means, it should be a *peer reviewed journal article*.

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Includes required APA cited sources 20%	Points: 0	Points: 1.2	Points: 1.4	Points: 1.6	Points: 2
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Focuses on required culture 20%	Points: 0	Points: 1.2	Points: 1.4	Points: 1.6	Points: 2
Integration between sport and culture 40%	Points: 0	Points: 2.4	Points: 2.8	Points: 3.2	Points: 4

How has sport influenced ANOTHER culture?

As we progress through this course you will complete several assignments that demonstrate your ability to both identify aspects of human culture and to relate them to things we see in sport.

Let's define culture as: the beliefs, values, perspectives, and practices of a group of people. This includes the behavior pattern, and norms of this group—these include the rules, forms of communication, assumptions, and the logic and reasoning that are specific to the group.

In this assignment you will identify and analyze an instance of sport influencing a culture other than your own. Begin by trying to define or identify this new culture. What are the defining features? Tell us about the people in this culture—what shapes them?

Then, think of an instance where sport has impacted that culture. This can range widely—I am open to you doing the research to convince me of the impact. Be sure to use your sources here to support this!

In the paper, include a summary of what actually happened—assume I have no idea so be sure to include detail. This summary should take maybe ½ a page. The remainder of your paper should talk about the aspect of culture you're covering and show how it changed because of what happened in your chosen sport. This section should be more in depth than in the first culture impact paper—we're deeper into the semester now so I'm assuming you're even more skilled at viewing sport through a cultural lens now. It might be useful to go back and look at your feedback on the first paper to see what you should focus on improving or expanding here.

If you think back through the semester various discussion board assignments have provided examples of this. For instance, think back to cricket and the cultures of India and Pakistan.

This paper must meet the following guidelines:

- 1 inch margins
- 12 point font, Times or Cambria
- **3-4 pages in length**, 1 inch margins
- Include at least **4 sources** cited properly using APA format. More on APA format can be found at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references>
 - 1 of these sources must be scholarly! That means, it should be a *peer reviewed journal article*.

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Focuses on required culture 20%	Points: 0	Points: 1.2	Points: 1.4	Points: 1.6	Points: 2
Integration between sport and culture 40%	Points: 0	Points: 2.4	Points: 2.8	Points: 3.2	Points: 4