

Moravian College

SOC 370 - Seminar: Race & Sport

Dr. Joel Nathan Rosen, Assistant Professor of Sociology

PPHAC 317

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Office Hours: T 4-5 & W 1-4 or by appointment

Required Text:

- William C. Rhoden's *Forty Million Dollar Slaves* (available in bookstore)
- John Hobermans's *Darwin's Athletes*
- Supplemental readings as necessary

Recommended Text:

- Douglas Hartmann's *Race, Culture, and the Revolt of the Black Athlete*

Course Description:

This course will introduce and in some cases reintroduce students to varying avenues of sociological research by examining the role of competitive sport in relation to race and related issues of inequality in American society. Students will explore the development, introduction, and reception of the changing nature of 20th and even 21st century American sport by looking at a variety of theoretical and popular discussions that explore the role that sport plays when juxtaposed to a racial dynamic in a seemingly endless state of flux.

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to take a midterm exam, review a book (*TBD*), write a 13-15 page paper, take a final exam, which will be cumulative, and perform other tasks as befitting a 300 level course (See Misc.). The midterm will be spaced at approximately 1/2 of the way through the course while fair warning will precede the exam and any other due dates.

Using a traditional grading scale, the breakdown of grades is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| • Book Review | 20% |
| • Midterm Exam Grade | 20% |
| • Research Paper | 20% |
| • Final Exam Grade | 20% |
| • Participation and Other Misc. Tasks | 20% |

As I typically employ letter grades on written assignments, I offer the below list of how each letter translates numerically:

- A+=100/A= 96/A-=92
- B+=89/B=86/B-=82
- C+=79/C=76/C-=72
- D+=69/D=66/D-=62
- F=59-50 [actual score depends on the severity of the error(s)/student will be notified]
- Failure to turn in work translates into a *ZERO*

Classroom Decorum and Expectations:

Attendance – Class attendance is mandatory and vitally important to your success. Failure to attend on a regular basis not only puts your grade in jeopardy but may also be met with a lowered mark for participation.

- There are no excused absences. If you have a legitimate emergency, it is your responsibility to bring it to the attention of your instructor at your earliest convenience.

Tardiness – Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for the classroom, the instructor, and one's fellow students and will not be tolerated. Therefore, once the door has been shut, you will not be permitted to enter.

Deadlines – Assignment deadlines are exactly that. Students are expected to comply with deadlines in accordance with all rules, guidelines, and expectations of each assignment proffered. Failure to do so will result in a tendering of no-grade for work not done to expectation or submitted on time. The policy for late papers is as follows:

- On minor assignments, you will be allowed to turn in one late assignment as long as it is within twenty-four hours for a ten point deduction. After your one exception, you will no longer enjoy this luxury
- Do not expect me to have to chase you down in order to turn in assignments!

Participation – Classroom discussions are a big part of the learning process. Your participation is not requested—it is required. Failure to do so is both in bad taste and could conceivably be detrimental to your ability to learn effectively.

Disruptions – Disruptive behavior, including talking, unengaged behavior, i.e. reading a book, magazine, or newspaper, sleeping, chronic tardiness alongside loud entrances, and any other unfortunate breach will not be tolerated. Learning is an active process, and failure to actively engage not only threatens the individual's ability to learn but also affects those around him or her.

Academic Honesty – You are all responsible for knowing and adhering to the code of academic honesty here at Moravian College. For those of you unfamiliar with this code, it can be found on pages fifty-two through fifty-seven in your student handbook.

Please note: It is your responsibility to see to it that these expectations and guidelines are met satisfactorily and consistently. I take the classroom quite seriously, and I expect all of you to do the same as well.

Submission Expectations:

Out of class work must include:

- a title page with a suitable title, your name, the course, section, and my name all spelled correctly
- 12 font (in black) with default margins and spacing set at 1½ to 2
- page numbers at the bottom center starting with page 2
- a *References* section (if necessary) at the end of the work done in a **consistent citation style** (for every unedited internet cite you must have at least ***two*** published sources)¹
- with few exceptions, single & two-digit numbers (*zero through ninety-nine*) are to be spelled out; three digits are to be written numerically
- be wary of over use of abbreviations and/or contractions
- a staple in the upper left hand corner (no frilly covers)
- in-class work must be done in blue or black ink

On Writing and Research:

As this instructor is particularly moved by the written word, you should expect that there will be an emphasis placed on written expression in this course. I should also like you to know from the start that I spend a great deal of time pouring over your writing and expect that you will read and explore my commentary on all things ranging from content to grammar, punctuation, and syntax. Please try to check your ego at the doors and realize that this is a learning experience while convincing yourself that blips and missteps are all part of the process.

You should also note that where applicable, this instructor expects his students to deal directly with all matters relating to the citation process. Failure to do so will be dealt with harshly with penalties ranging from a zero on work not properly documented to a formal report to the proper academic disciplinary committee.

¹ Work not properly cited will not be graded. And *Wikipedia* will under no circumstances be considered a legitimate source!

*If you don't know where you are going,
you will wind up somewhere else.*
—Yogi Berra

Breakdown of Course Units:

Unit I: Establishing a Common Vocabulary Text: Rhoden, etc.

- What Is a Sociology of Sport
- Race and American Life
- Sport and the Protestant Ethic
- Sport from the Outside-In, i.e. The Journey of the African-American Athlete
- *Jim Crow*-ed Sport
- The Age of Jackie Robinson
- Toward a Seeming Full-Fledge Integrated Sport Landscape

Midterm Exam

Unit II: Reviewing the Post-Robinson Milieu Text: Hoberman, etc.

- Can Sport Be a Silver Bullet?
- Giving Back?
- The Double Standard
- Presumption of Guilt – The Black Athlete and the Stack-o-Lee Myth
- (Re)Solving the Contemporary Racial Conundrum
- Sport and Race in the Face of Other Discussions of Inequality
- Stacking and the Onset of a European/Asiatic Pipeline
- What the Future Portends

****Check Bb Daily****