Department of History, University of Florida
Sports and Society
AMH 3931/AFA 3930, Section 165H
Spring 2016
Periods 6
Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 12:50 – 1:40 pm
Location: FLI 0119

Professor: Ibram X. Kendi, Ph.D.
Office: 226 Keene-Flint Hall
Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or by appointment
Office Phone: (352) 273-3383
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Course Description
This course takes a probing look into the history of sports in America and the Western world, paying special attention to the interplay between sports and social issues.

Required Books
Dave Zinn, What's My Name Fool? Sports and Resistance in the US
Carol Spindel, Dancing at Halftime: Sports and the Controversy Over American Mascots
Tony Collins, Sport in Capitalist Society: A Short History
Susan Ware, Game, Set, Match: Billie Jean King and the Revolution in Women’s Sports

Academic Course Requirements
Reading Pop Quizzes (25 Percent). Students will be given six, five-question pop quizzes at the beginning of six class periods. There is no need to study. Reading the text carefully will suffice as studying. There are no make-ups, unless you have an approved excuse. Each quiz is worth 20 points for a total of 100 points. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Debates (25 Percent). Each student will participate in five debates and each student will judge five debates. For each debate students participate in, they are to turn in a minimum one-page document containing their points of argumentation and supporting evidence. For each debate students serve as a judge, students are to complete and hand in the judgment sheets supplied by the professor before each debate. Each completed judgement sheet amounts to 5 points for a total of 25 points. Students will debate as teams and each team will receive one grade. Teams will be given the first 10 minutes of class to huddle and discuss strategy. Non-debating students and the professor as judges will select the winner. The score for each team for each debate will range from 0 to 15 for a total of 75 points. Winning teams can receive no less than 13 points. Losing teams can receive any score, and the score will be below 13 points.

Commentaries on Current Events & Issues (30 Percent). Students are to write three 1,000 word commentaries on current social issues impacting sports and/or sports impacting social issues. Each of these commentaries will be uploaded online onto a course blog, so feel free to share the pieces with family and friends. One commentary must be submitted in February, another in March, and another in April.
Final Class Project (20 Percent). As a class, we will pursue a project for this course. The guidelines for this project will be distributed after spring break. The final project will be due on April 27. It must be emailed (ikendi@ufl.edu) to the professor by 2:30 p.m.

Note: All assignments must be typed in 12-point in a word processing font.

Extra Credit
During the course of the semester, there may be events on campus that have some relationship to this course. If the event is approved, the instructor give extra credit for attending and writing a one-page reflection paper about your experience. A half of a point will be added to your overall grade/average for attending and writing about an event.

Grading Scale (Numerical Grade Equivalent)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>89-84</td>
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<td>86-80</td>
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<td>83-74</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>66-60</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>59-0</td>
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Grading Policy
The grading for this course will be based on the student’s knowledge of the material, and how they articulate this knowledge through class discussion and assignments. Students cannot turn in any assignments late.

Course evaluation process
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu.

Class attendance policy
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Students with Disabilities
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Student Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

UF’s Honesty Policy
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this
assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week #1
Wednesday, January 6
Course Overview

Friday, January 8
Debate Topic: Athletes Should/Should Not Delve into Social and Political Controversies

Week #2 ~ Sport and Capitalism
Monday, January 11
Required Reading: Collins, Sport in Capitalist Society, 1-37

Wednesday, January 13
Required Reading: Collins, Sport in Capitalist Society, 38-68

Friday, January 15
Debate Topic: Sports is/is not the opiate of the masses

Week #3 ~ Sport and Capitalism
Monday, January 18
Class Cancelled

Wednesday, January 20
Required Reading: Collins, Sport in Capitalist Society, 69-99

Friday, January 22
Required Reading: Collins, Sport in Capitalist Society, 100-129

Week #4 ~ Sport and Race
Monday, January 25
Required Reading: Patrick Miller, “The Anatomy of Scientific Racism, Racialist Responses to Black Athletic Achievement” [Canvas]

Wednesday, January 27
Required Reading: John Hoberman, “Theories of Racial Athletic Aptitude,” in Darwin’s Athletes [Canvas]

Friday, January 29
Debate Topic: Black People Are/Are Not Athletically Superior

Week #5 ~ Sport and Race
Monday, February 1

*Wednesday, February 3*
Required Reading: Geoffrey C. Ward, *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* [Excerpt on Canvas]

*Friday, February 5*
Debate Topic: Sports Is/Is Not America’s Great Equalizer

**Week #6 – Sport and Race**

*Monday, February 8*
Required Reading: Adrian Burgos, *Playing America’s Game: Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line* [Excerpt on Canvas]

*Wednesday, February 10*
Required Reading: David J. Leonard, *After Artest: The NBA and the Assault on Blackness* [Excerpt on Canvas]

*Friday, February 12*
Debate Topic: Black Athletes Should/Should Not Use Their Influence to Advance Black America

**Week #7 – Sport and Race**

*Monday, February 15*
Required Reading: Spindel, *Dancing at Halftime*, 10-37

*Wednesday, February 17*
Required Reading: Spindel, *Dancing at Halftime*, 38-68

*Friday, February 19*
Required Reading: Spindel, *Dancing at Halftime*, 96-140

**Week #8 – Sport and Race**

*Monday, February 22*
Required Reading: Spindel, *Dancing at Halftime*, 141-172

*Wednesday, February 24*
Required Reading: Spindel, *Dancing at Halftime*, 173-198

*Friday, February 26*
Debate Topic: Sports Teams Should/Should Not Drop their Native American Mascots

**Week #9 ~ No Classes, Spring Break**

**Week #10 ~ Sport and Gender**

*Monday, March 7*
Required Reading: Ware, *Game, Sent, Match*, prologue & chapter 1

*Wednesday, March 9*
Required Reading: Ware, *Game, Sent, Match*, chapter 2

*Friday, March 11*
Debate Topic: Women Are/Are Not Athletically Superior to Men

**Week #11 ~ Sport and Gender**
*Monday, March 14*
Required Reading: Ware, *Game, Sent, Match*, chapter 3

*Wednesday, March 16*
Required Reading: Ware, *Game, Sent, Match*, chapter 4

*Friday, March 18*
Debate Topic: America Should/Should Not Permit Coed Sports

**Week #12 ~ Sport and Gender**
*Monday, March 21*
Required Reading: Ware, *Game, Sent, Match*, chapter 5

*Wednesday, March 23*
Required Reading: Ware, *Game, Sent, Match*, chapter 6 and epilogue

*Friday, March 25*

**Week #13 ~ Sport and Sexuality**
*Monday, March 28*
Required Reading: Collins, “I’m A 34-Year-Old NBA Center. I’m Black. And I’m Gay,” *Sports Illustrated*, 5.6.13. [Canvas]

*Wednesday, March 30*

*Friday, April 1*
Debate Topic: There Should Be Restrictions/No Restrictions on Gay Athletes

**Week #14 ~ Sport and Resistance**
*Monday, April 4*
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 1

*Wednesday, April 6*
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 2

*Friday, April 8*
Debate Topic: Athletes Should/Should Not be Patriotic
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 3 & 4

**Week #15 ~ Sport and Resistance**  
*Monday, April 11*  
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 5

*Wednesday, April 13*  
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 6

*Friday, April 15*  
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 7

**Week #16 ~ Sport and Resistance**  
*Monday, April 18*  
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 8

*Wednesday, April 20*  
Required Reading: Ziri, *What's My Name, Fool?*, chapter 10

**Week #17: Finals Week**  
Final Exam (no class meeting): *Wednesday, April 27, 12:30 – 2:30 pm*  
**Final Project Due:** Email to professor ([ikendi@ufl.edu](mailto:ikendi@ufl.edu)) by 9:30 a.m.