

**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
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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)

	100-94 = A	93-90 = A-
89-87 = B+	86-84 = B	83-80 = B-
79-77 = C+	76-74 = C	73-70 = C-
69-67 = D+	66-64 = D	63-60 = D-
	59-0 = E	

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

Required Reading: Kevin R. Smith, *Black Genesis: The History of the Black Prizefighter, 1760-1870*
[Excerpt on Canvas]

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

Debate Topic: Sexism Is/Is Not Prevalent in Sports Today

Week #13 ~ Sport and Sexuality

Monday, March 28

Required Reading: Collins, "Im A 34-Year-Old NBA Center. I'm Black. And I'm Gay," *Sports Illustrated*, 5.6.13. [Canvas]

Wednesday, March 30

Required Reading: S. L. Price, "Moment of Truth," *Sports Illustrated*, 2.17.14 [Canvas]

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) by 9:30 a.m.