

JRLC 3800: SPORTS, MEDIA AND SOCIETY

Fall 2021

Instructor: Professor Carlo Finlay, carlof@uga.edu

Class meeting: 10:20-11:10 a.m. MWF in Instructional Plaza N106

Office hours: 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. MWF or by appointment in room 423C of the Journalism building

Class web site: <https://carmicalsportsmediasociety.wordpress.com/>

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

From civil rights to women's rights to LGBTQ rights, from controversial police shootings to conversations about mental health to arguments about the rights of student-athletes, sports often play a prominent role in societal debate and change.

In this class we will discuss lightning-rod athletes such as Muhammad Ali and watershed issues and events such as Title IX and the integration of American sports. We will study how sports can reflect and drive change in society. We will analyze how the media has treated athletes, sports and their cultural role in contemporary and historical contexts.

By the end of this semester, you should have a foundational knowledge of the relationship between sports and society. You also should understand how the media affect the impact sports have on our cultural progression.

COURSE TOPICS

Below is a general list of the topics we will discuss this semester. The [class schedule](#) will be updated throughout the semester with information on when we will cover these topics.

- Amateurism and college sports
 - Mental health in sports
 - Race and ethnicity in sports
 - Women in sports
 - LGBTQ+ in sports
 - Sports fandom
 - The changing nature of sports media
 - Athletes as heroes
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ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Quizzes (20% of your grade): There will be a total of 12 unannounced quizzes given throughout the semester. These quizzes will be based off of either assigned readings or films we watch in class. Quizzes based off of assigned readings will be given at the beginning of class and will be open-internet/open-note. Quizzes based off of films will be given at the end of class. Each quiz will contain either three or five questions and will be graded on a pass/fail basis (2/3 is a passing score for three-question quizzes; 3/5 is a passing score for five-question quizzes). If you take a quiz and pass it, you will earn two points toward your overall grade in the class. If you fail the quiz or do not take it, you will earn zero points for that quiz. If you take and pass 10 quizzes, you will earn full credit for this portion of your grade. If you take and pass 11 or 12 quizzes, you will earn either an extra two or four points toward your overall grade in the class. All quizzes will be given in eLC. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Online discussion through Packback (20% of your grade): Unless otherwise noted, you will participate in online discussions with your classmates on Packback each week, beginning the week of Aug. 23. You are expected to participate in Packback discussions during a total of 11 weeks this semester. A list of the weeks you are required to participate in Packback discussions is listed in the [class schedule](#). For each week that you fully participate, you will earn two points toward your overall grade in the class. If you fully participate in 10 discussions, you will earn full credit for this portion of your grade. If you fully participate in all 11 discussions, you will earn an extra two points toward your overall grade in the class. [Click here](#) for additional information on the Packback requirements.

Midterm exam (30% of your grade): The midterm exam will be given on Wednesday, Oct. 6. The exam will be available in eLC that day from 10:20 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. You will be tested on the assigned readings, the assigned films/videos and anything from class lecture through Oct. 4. The exam will be a multiple-choice, open-note, open-internet test.

Final exam (30% of your grade): The final exam will be given on Friday, Dec. 10 at 8 a.m. It will be available in eLC. The final exam will not be cumulative. You will be tested on the assigned readings, the assigned films/videos and anything from class lecture from Oct. 7 through Dec. 7. This exam will be a multiple-choice, open-note, open-internet test.

Research participation (extra credit): You can earn up to four points of extra credit through the Grady College Research Participation Pool (<http://ugagrady.sona-systems.com>). When you're logged into the site, you will see research studies being conducted by Grady graduate students and faculty that you can take part in to earn this extra credit. **You will earn one point for each study in which you participate, up to a maximum of four points.** If you have questions about the research participation pool, please contact Prof. Bart Wojdyski at bartw@uga.edu.

Grading scale

- 93-100: A
- 90-92: A-
- 87-89: B+
- 83-86: B
- 80-82: B-
- 77-79: C+
- 73-76: C
- 70-72: C-
- 60-69: D
- 0-59: F

Note: I will round percentages ending in .5 or higher up to the nearest whole number and percentages .4 and lower down to the nearest whole number.

ONLINE VIDEOS, AUDIO RECORDINGS AND READINGS

I will post links to online video, audio and reading assignments on the [class schedule page](#) on this website. I will post all assignments at least three days before you need to complete them. Please check frequently for updates. All online assignments are mandatory.

ONLINE DISCUSSION THROUGH PACKBACK

Beginning the week of Aug. 23 and unless otherwise noted in the [class schedule](#), you and your classmates will participate in asynchronous online discussions each week. These discussions will take place through a platform called Packback. Directions for how to register for Packback are listed below.

Packback is an AI-supported online discussion platform that enables meaningful student discussion. Each week, you and your classmates will ask

and answer each other's questions. These questions should relate to issues discussed in class, the assigned readings and/or the assigned films. Below are the specific requirements to earn full credit (two points) each week.

1. You must ask at least one open-ended question by each Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. In order to receive full credit, your question must earn a curiosity score of at least 50 out of 100 points (I will explain what this means).

2. You must respond to at least three of your classmates' questions by each Friday at 11:59 p.m.

Meeting both of these requirements will earn you two points each week. Failure to meet these requirements will earn you zero points.

There are 11 weeks during the semester when Packback discussions will be assigned. For each one you fully participate in, you will earn 2% towards your overall grade in the class. If you participate fully in 10 Packback discussions, you will receive full credit (20%) for this portion of your grade. If you fully participate in all 11 discussions, you will earn an extra 2 percentage points towards your overall grade in the class.

How to Register on Packback:

You will receive a welcome email on Friday, Aug. 20 from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. The cost to do so for the semester is \$29.

If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://questions.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"

Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.

2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage. Community Lookup Key:
52a1249b-a6a4-4907-91c2-f354b8cc2a9d
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

If you have ANY questions or concerns regarding Packback throughout the semester, please let me know immediately. In addition to emailing me, you can also contact the Packback customer support team at help@packback.co

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video:

vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions

REQUIRED SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Each of you must purchase a subscription to Packback (\$29)

DIVERSITY IN OUR CLASS

Diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. The term "diversity" encompasses differences of culture, background and experience among individuals and groups. Such differences include, but are not limited to, differences of race, ethnicity, national origin, veteran status, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and abilities, as well as political and religious affiliation and socioeconomic status. All students enrolled in the class are expected to abide by UGA's diversity policy, and to respect different,

diverse viewpoints discussed during class. Please refer to the following website for more information:

<https://diversity.uga.edu/index.php/about/mission>

In accordance with University policy, I do not engage in, nor do I tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of race/ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex/gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, or veteran status. In addition, I do not discriminate on the basis of political creed. You will not be required to share my or anyone else's beliefs in order to do well in the course; you must only demonstrate that you have read and understood the course material, not that you agree with it. I also make every effort to avoid discrimination based upon class or income. If there is something I can do to make the class more welcoming, please let me know.

POLICIES

1. As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found [here](#). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.
2. Students who are having a hard time balancing the demands of class, work, and life in general should not feel alone; the combination of freedom and responsibility that comes with college is really hard for a lot of people. It's okay to seek professional help, and UGA has ramped up its counseling services significantly over the past few years. Take advantage of them at <http://www.uhs.uga.edu/caps/>. More broadly, ask for help and feel free to seek advice from me or others before you get in over your head. That said, asking for help is your responsibility. I cannot accommodate undiagnosed learning disabilities or other

challenges as excuses for missing assignments. The University of Georgia is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws including the American Disabilities Act. Help for disabled students is available from the Disability Resource Center. More information is available at <https://drc.uga.edu/>. If you have a particular issue that needs to be accommodated, please share it with me as early as possible in the semester.

3. Students who train or use service animals should be aware of UGA policy. A FAQ is available at <http://eoo.uga.edu/policies/pdfs/ServiceAnimalPolicyFAQ.pdf>.
4. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Face coverings: Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.

How can I obtain the COVID-19 vaccine? University Health Center is scheduling appointments for students through the UHC Patient Portal (https://patientportal.uhs.uga.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx). Learn more here – <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine>.

The Georgia Department of Health, pharmacy chains and local providers also offer the COVID19 vaccine at no cost to you. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, please go to: <https://georgia.gov/covid-vaccine>.

In addition, the University System of Georgia has made COVID-19 vaccines available at 15 campuses statewide and you can locate one here:

<https://www.usg.edu/vaccination>

What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms? Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see, <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19? If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, you are required to report it through the DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey. We encourage you to stay at home if you become ill or until you have excluded COVID-19 as the cause of your symptoms. UGA adheres to current Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) quarantine and isolation guidance and requires that it be followed. Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.

Guidelines for COVID-19 Quarantine Period (As of 8/1/21; follow DawgCheck or see DPH website for most up-to-date recommendations) Students who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine upon exposure unless they have symptoms of COVID-19 themselves. All others should follow the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) recommendations:

Students who are not fully vaccinated and have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 10 days. Those quarantining for 10 days must have been symptom-free throughout the monitoring period and continue self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms for a total of 14 days. You should report the need to quarantine on DawgCheck (<https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>), and communicate directly with your faculty to coordinate your coursework while in quarantine. If you need additional help, reach out to Student Care and Outreach (sco@uga.edu) for assistance.

Students, faculty and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are no longer required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease and show no symptoms.

Well-being, Mental Health, and Student Support If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources to support your well-being and mental health:
<https://wellbeing.uga.edu/>

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support:
<https://caps.uga.edu/>, TAO Online Support (<https://caps.uga.edu/tao/>), 24/7 support at 706-542-2273. For crisis support:
<https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>.

The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators:
<https://healthcenter.uga.edu/bewelluga/> Monitoring conditions: Note that the guidance referenced in this syllabus is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia, or the Governor's Office or. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit coronavirus.uga.edu.

