

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
Department of Physical Education and Athletics

PE 1040

Introduction to Sociocultural Aspects of Leisure and Sport

COURSE OUTLINE
(FALL, 1996)

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Calendar Description

The course explores the study of play, physical education, recreation, sport and leisure as institutionalized ways in which society organizes and teaches attitudes and skills. It provides an introduction to the importance of sociocultural inquiry and the motion of being critical as an empower process.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to the social analysis of play, leisure, and sport.
2. To explore the influence of social indicators like class, race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexuality, and age on who can and cannot enjoy sport and leisure activities.
3. To introduce students to the motion of critical thinking as an empowering process.
4. To prepare students for more advanced courses in the history and sociology of sport and leisure.

Required Text

A collection of readings has been compiled for the course under the title (**Introduction to Sociocultural Aspects of Leisure and Sport: Readings for PE 1040**). It is available in the GPRC Bookstore. The readings complement the lecture material and proposed discussions. As such it is absolutely essential and an understood requirement that the articles are read **BEFORE** the classes.

COURSE SEQUENCE

(The Instructor reserves the right to modify this sequence if required **but** only if it is truly necessary).

Sept. 5	Classes begin; Introductions, etc...
Sept. 10/12	Getting Started: Invitation to the Sociological Perspective.
Sept. 17/19	Definitions: Play, Games, Contests, Sport, and Leisure.
Sept 24/26	Play or Dis/Play: Social Issues.
Oct. 15/17/22	Children and Youth at Play (or Work?) - Term Paper Outline/Bibliography Due.
Oct. 24	Who Plays?
Oct. 29	Can Only the Rich Play?
Oct. 31	Play and Cultural Diversity.
Nov. 5	Play and People with Disabilities.
Nov.7	SECOND TERM TEST
Nov. 12	Term Paper drafts due, Class discussions and critiques of same.
Nov. 14/19	Play and Gender Equity.
Nov. 21/26	Play and Sexuality ; TERM PAPERS DUE.
Nov. 28	Play and Aging.
Dec. 3/5	Play and the Future.
Dec. 9-17	FINAL EXAM DATES.

Course Requirements

1. Two **Term Examinations** consisting of questions requiring answers in the form of short paragraphs, sentences, and definitions. Each examination will be worth 15 percent of the final grade for the course.
2. A **Term Assignment** not to exceed 1800 words (about 6 pages double-spaced using a size 12 font) not including tables, charts, figures, or references. This assignment is worth 35 percent of the final grade for the course. Your first task is to choose a personal experience connected with either your sporting or leisure pursuits. For example, suppose you had to prematurely "retire" from competitive sport due to injury. This has prompted you to become interested in "burn-out" among young athletes. Your next task is to explore some of the literature around this topic and write a commentary based not only on your own experience, but also on what you find in the literature. **Note:** The Instructor is always available for discussions re: your topic. More information on this course requirement will be provided in class.
3. A mark of 10% will be assigned for **significant** contributions to the class discussions and lectures.
4. A comprehensive, two-hour **Final Examination** which will be in essay and short answer format and will be worth 25 percent of the final grade for the course.

Course Grading

Evaluation will be completed and expressed in "raw" marks (e.g., 15 out of 20) throughout the course. Therefore, if all assignments and examinations have been completed, a student will have a total mark out of 100. All students with a final mark of 50 or more will pass the course. In other words, grades, using the 9 point system, will be assigned only to the final distribution of mark totals for the course. There is no set formula for the assigning of grades (I look for the natural breaks in the distribution) except that students with at least a final mark of 50 will receive at least a grade of 4 or better.

Important Reminders

1. Any course requirement not completed will be assigned a mark of **zero**.
2. The date of the **two Term Examinations** are fixed. Permission to take either as a Deferred Examination at another time will be granted only for extremely compelling reasons. Any request for such a Deferred Examination must be made to the instructor at least five days in advance of the examination date. If a student should miss an examination due to illness or an emergency situation, the request for a Deferred Examination must be made to the instructor within three days following the examination, and must be supported with evidence of the illness or emergency situation.
3. The date for the submission of the **Term Assignment** is fixed. Permission to submit this at a later date will be granted only for extremely compelling reasons, and should be made to the instructor at least five days before the due date. Assignments that are handed in later than the due date without permission will be penalized at the rate of 10 percent per day.
4. The date for the **Final Examination** is set by the College. Students are required to be available during the final exam schedule. (See GPRC calendar p.7).