

## Sports in Modern Society

### Focus on Analysis

**Introduction:** Welcome to Sports in Modern Society. First, it's important to know that I have always wanted to teach this course. Thus, to say I'm excited would be a huge understatement. Growing up I immensely enjoyed watching the games on the fields and courts. I still do. As I got older, though, I began to realize that what went on away from the action could at times be just as interesting if not more, as well as something that could provide a window into American society as a whole. In recent years, we have witnessed a flurry of controversial happenings that have brought into focus race, LGBT issues, drugs, academic integrity, crime and punishment and much more, as it relates to athletes, fans and the media. It is these issues we shall seek to tackle throughout the semester.

**Assessments:** Due to the nature of the course, we will steer clear of the traditional test with vocab. words and concepts to commit to memory. Rather, assessments will come through outside readings and analysis, debates, small pieces of writing, presentations, speeches and construction of plans to alter something in the current landscape of the sports world that you believe needs changing. We can discuss and negotiate point values as we go forward.

**Expectations:** My greatest expectation for you is that you'll be an integral contributor to class discussion and will offer ideas that represent food for thought for your classmates. Additionally, my hope is that you'll share your own sports backgrounds and be receptive to learning about others' backgrounds, to gain an appreciation for something for which you may have possessed little to no knowledge previously. While this is an elective that is not leveled, I do expect a reasonable degree of effort to merit your earning a half credit. You will not be burdened with an inordinate amount of outside work in this course. Thus, in the time we're together on a daily basis, I expect a degree of attentiveness befitting of your status as a class of predominantly seniors. That said, I am expecting each of you read a sports-related book, do some writing about it and teach a lesson on it.

**Sample Topics:** Coming out in sports, ped use, recreational drug use, sexual assault on college campus, race and racial stereotypes, what is and isn't a sport, the role of the media in sports, money and salaries, academic integrity or lack thereof, extreme sports in the mainstream, gender issues in sports, the end of college amateurism, trends in sports, athletes as role models or not, double standards for athletes, scandals, fantasy sports vs. reality and more...

