

Contemporary Issues in Sports

Purpose – Contemporary Issues in Sports is a seminar style class for juniors and seniors. Students will be actively engaged in this discussion-centered class, which will simulate a first-year college seminar experience. This class is designed to improve students' critical thinking, discussion, research, and writing skills in preparation for college.

Essential Questions – These questions will be the foundation of our study:

1. How have sports influenced your individual lives?
2. Does the culture of sport reflect or contradict society?

Course Objectives – Throughout this course, we will examine some, if not all, of the following topics:

- * Define how sports are connected with the major spheres of social life.
- * Describe the relationship between competition and character.
- * Define how sport can promote competitive, cooperative, and individualistic reward structures.
- * Understand class and race logic.
- * Delineate weaknesses in high school sports and what could be improved.
- * Know the pros and cons of being a three-sport high school athlete.
- * Explain sport deviance and its evolution over the past fifty years.
- * Understand Title IX and its implications.
- * Assess the pros and cons of specialty academies for student-athletes.
- * Recommend ideas on how current athletic programs can seek improvements in sportsmanship.
- * Research areas of interest in contemporary sports.

Grading –

Reaction Papers.....	40%
Panel Presentation.....	40%
Participation.....	20%

Course Requirements –

1. Reaction Papers

Each Tuesday, four students will complete a reaction paper to a specific question that surrounds the world of sports. The students will present their essays to the class and lead discussion afterwards. Topics include race and gender logic, youth, high school, and collegiate athletics, Title IX, and the impact of professional sports on society.

2. Panel Presentations

Each Friday, four students will complete a project on topics consistent with Tuesday reaction papers. Panel Presentations should last 20 minutes for each individual or 80 minutes for the entire group. Presentations can include videos and class activities and should include a brief discussion period at the end.

3. Participation

Students should be prepared to participate actively in the ongoing dialogue of the class, especially during Wazzup Wednesdays. In order to participate, you need to stay up on national, regional, and local sports. Your only homework should be to read the sports page and to watch Sportscenter.

COURSE OUTLINE:

WEDNESDAYS: WAZZUP WEDNESDAY – SPORTS PAGE DISCUSSIONS

MONDAY’S – REACTION PAPERS THURSDAY’S PANEL PRESENTATIONS

<p>Week One – Favorite Sports Moment - What are your most memorable sports moments – both as a player and as a fan? (All groups)</p>	<p>Week One – “I’m so fast that last night I turned off the light switch in my hotel room and was in bed before the room was dark.” Cool Papa Bell/Muhammad Ali - Sports Autobiography – All Groups</p>
<p>Week Two Sports and Society - Sports can heal a nation - Should the games have gone on after 9/11? Hurricane Katrina? When is the right time to play? (Group One)</p>	<p>Week Two– “We Shall Overcome” – Jack Buck St. Louis Cardinal’s broadcaster (Group Four) • Miracle on Ice • 9/11 • San Francisco Earthquake • Hurricane Katrina</p>
<p>Movie: Miracle</p>	<p>Week Three– Race and Sports</p>
<p>Week Four –</p>	<p>Week Four – “From</p>

<p>The Black Athlete – Race</p> <p>Logic - Are black athletes better basketball players? Are white athletes better golfers?(Group Two)</p>	<p>what we get, we can make a living; what we give however, makes a life.”</p> <p>Arthur Ashe - (Group Three)</p> <p>Jackie Robinson - Hank Aaron -</p> <p>Muhammed Ali - Texas Western -</p> <p>Jim Brown - Arthur Ashe - Michael Jordan</p> <p>- Tiger Woods - Venus and Serena Williams</p>
<p>Movie Week –Rebound</p>	<p>Week Five : Sportsmanship</p>
<p>Week Five – Sports Done Right– Do you think Windham is seen as a school that demonstrates good or bad sportsmanship?</p> <p>How can sportsmanship</p>	<p>Week Five –</p> <p>“One man practicing good sportsmanship is far better than 50 others preaching it.” Knute Rockne</p>

<p>be improved at</p> <p>Windham High School” (Group Three)</p>	<p>What is Sports Done Right? (Group Two)</p>
<p>Week Six – High School Athletics - The Loss of the Three-Sport Athlete. Have sports become too specialized? What are the pro’s and con’s of specialization? (Group Four)</p>	<p>Week Six – “Basketball was my life for eight years, but when I walked away, a huge burden was lifted.” – Stefanie Schilling Troy High School - Fresno, CA (Group One)</p>
<p>Movie - Remember the Titans</p>	<p>Week Seven – Women and Sports</p>
<p>Week Eight – Title IX and its implications – Does Title IX accomplish what it intends? What have been some of the positive and negative consequences of Title IX? (GroupOne)</p>	<p>Week Eight - “There’s No Cryin’ in Baseball!”- Tom Hanks as Jimmy Dugan Women in sports – History of the Female Athlete (Group Four) Billy Jean King - Venus and Serena</p>

	Williams - Babe Didrickson - A League of Their Own - Sheryl Swoops - Michelle Wie
Movie - A League of Their Own	Week Nine - Sports Gambling
Week Ten - Sports and Gambling - Does gambling on sports contribute to its popularity? How has gambling impacted both the collegiate and professional athlete? (Group Two)	Week Ten - Gambling is illegal at Bushwood, and I never slice.” Ted Knight as Judge Smalls. Case Studies - Gambling and the amateur athlete, Gambling and the NFL, March Madness. (Group Three)
Movie - Eight Men Out	Week Eleven - Sports and the Media
Week Twelve - Sports and the Media - Can Sports and the Media survive without each other? What have been	Week Twelve - “I always turn to the sports section first. The sports section

<p>some of the positive and negative impacts of the media on sports? The athlete? (Group Three)</p>	<p>records people's accomplishments; the front page, nothing but man's failures."</p> <p>~Earl Warren, quoted in Sports Illustrated,</p> <p>Role Play (Group Two)</p>
<p>Week Thirteen – Sports and the Economy – What are the Characteristics of Commerical Sports? (Group Four)</p>	<p>Week Thirteen – "Show me the money!"</p> <p>Tom Cruise as sports agent Jerry Maguire. (Group One)</p> <p>Sports and Marketing</p> <p>The Age of Free Agency Merchandising</p>
<p>Movie TBA</p>	<p>Week Fourteen – Take each on in</p> <p>Sports Trivia</p>
<p>Week Fifteen – Sports and Woodsville</p>	<p>Week Fifteen – "Two things in Woodsville</p>

<p>How can athletics be improved at Woodsville High School? The Woodsville Community? (Group One)</p>	<p>are absolute; we can't stop counter and we can't hit a curve ball."</p> <p>Proposals to improve Woodsville Athletics.</p> <p>(Group Four)</p>
<p>Week Sixteen – Extreme Sports – Have extreme sports changed the definition of an athlete?</p>	<p>Week Sixteen – "Other people may not have high expectations for me... but I had high expectations for myself."</p> <p>-Shannon Miller – American Gymnast</p> <p>X-Games Bodie Miller</p>
<p>– Catch up week</p>	<p>Semester Ends</p>