



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Department of Sociology

Oakland - Main
Summer 2019 (2197)
Greece – Various Locales
Study Abroad

Dr. Mike-Frank G. Epitropoulos
WWPH 2412
+30 697 530 1725
E-Mail: karp@pitt.edu

SOCIOLOGY OF SPORTS
SOC 0465

“Winning is a habit. Unfortunately so is losing.”
— Vince Lombardi, Jr.

“He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.”
— Muhammad Ali

“What would be wrong with letting a kid go pro, and if it doesn't work out he can come back to college? What's the harm in that? The reason is the word "amateurism." The NCAA has to protect colleges' tax exemption.”
— Sonny Vaccaro

“Just win, baby! Win!”
— Al Davis

This course aims to systematically introduce the phenomenon of sports through Sociological “lenses” in such a way that we can see the multitude of ways that sports is, and has been, embedded in our societies throughout human history. Sports are not new. The way that sports have evolved is very interesting, as have been the influences on sports from religion, culture and economy. We will introduce some comparative-historical foundations of sports and the impact that they have had on societies.

For the Pitt in Greece Study Abroad Version of the course, we will pay special attention to sports in Ancient Greece, from early Hellenic civilizations to the inception of the original Olympic Games. We then continue to the original, Modern Olympiad, which was hosted by Athens as well, and follow the trajectory to today. In 2004, Greece became the smallest nation to ever host a Modern Olympic Games. The project and production is a mega-political and –economic process. While we study the origins,

meanings, functions and political-economic intrigue, we will visit the birthplace of the Olympics in ancient Olympia of the Peloponnese, Kalimarmaro, the home stadium of the first Modern Olympiad, and many facilities that housed the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. Beyond that, we will see how modern professional sports and sports infrastructure contribute to tourism and public health.

Sociologically, we are interested in the way we look at sports – the theories and methods that we use to study sports, just as we study and analyze other social phenomena. We want to “see” the embeddedness of sports in our economic, social and political lives. We want to recognize systematic differences by race, gender, culture and ethnicity. “It’s not just a game.” For this reason, we want to understand sports through scientific research that may not fit with the way we have looked at sports before. We will go beyond observations and opinions – though we will continue to do both observe and opine.

That means that while we can discuss trends, we have to know our history first. We have to understand how sports are organized, how we socially interact around sports, how our personal differences play out on the field, what roles deviance and violence take in sports, how sports vary around the world, and how sports have and can change society.

In Greece, Sports Tourism is one of the anchors behind Classical Tourism and Sun, Sand & Sea (SSS) Tourism. Besides the Olympic games, Greece has world-class professional sports, like basketball, soccer, water polo, volleyball, and water sports. This demonstrates the links between the physical environment – particularly the sea – and tourism. This includes forms of sports tourism that take place *in* the water, *by* the water, and *under* the water. This aspect of the courses meshes with the accompanying course to the Pitt in Greece program, Community & Tourism Analysis. The Sociology of Sports in Greece is indelibly linked to Sustainable Development and the Environment. This adds to the depth and breadth of the course.

Required Texts

Jamieson, Katherine M. and Maureen M. Smith. 2016. *Fundamentals of Sociology of Sport and Physical Activity eBook*. Human Kinetics, ISBN-13: 9781492536789.

*** These readings will be supplemented by articles, lectures, videos, fieldwork, group work, and other material. It is imperative that you follow along on CourseWeb.**

Evaluation

	<u>% of Grade</u>
Exam 1	30
Final Project	50
Journal	<u>20</u>
Final Grade	100

Academic Integrity:

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

Statement on Classroom Recording*:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students **MAY NOT RECORD** classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, **and** any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use. Violators will be dismissed from class.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-624-3346 (Fax), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, visit www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drsabout.

Email policy in course syllabi:

Each student is issued a University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](#)) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at

their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

You are responsible for keeping up with the syllabus and all course activities and changes through CourseWeb.

The course readings – including articles posted under Course Documents on CourseWeb – will be available BEFORE the Pitt in Greece program departs from the US for Athens. Because the Pitt in Greece program is a mobile program and invariably gets “ahead” and “behind”, I do not post date-specific readings. This is a rolling syllabus, that will have dates for the various Evaluation Items (Exam, Project, etc.) set, but readings that will NOT be set.

We will read the entire required text and all of the articles that will be posted on CourseWeb. In addition, we will have lectures and guest speakers from professionals, Olympic officials and sports tourism professionals that will also be critical material for your coursework.

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