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**TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE: SPORTS & CRIME**

47:202:466:Q1 SPRING 2025

TUESDAY 6:00-9:00 CLJ-572

Instructor: Dr. Beth Ellen Adubato

E-mail: badubato@scj.rutgers.edu

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday at 4:45-5:45 or by appointment (virtual or in person)

**Additional Student Support**

Writing Center

Located at Conklin Hall, Room 126, 175 University Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102 E-mail: nwc@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Phone: (973) 353-5849

<https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/writing-center>

Writing Across the Curriculum Workshops offered every semester to all students enrolled in a Writing Intensive course.

Course Description:

One commonality between sports and crime would be the entertainment value of both subjects—sports providing the world with both televised and live entertainment and crime serving as the topic for media’s favorite genre. The connection runs much deeper, however, as sports and crime are inextricably linked at all levels. This class will cover famous sports scandals; illegal gambling operations and Olympic Committee corruption; doping; NCAA violations and the effect of recent changes in college athletics regarding payments to student athletes; race and sports; gender and sports; sports fan aggression, athletes accused of crimes; the disparities in treatment of accused athletes, and sports leagues’ policies.

Course Objectives:

* Identify the particular crimes associated with sports and fit them into the indices of Part I and Part II crimes.
* Apply criminological theories to the various crimes associated with sports
* Impart knowledge of the principles of discourse analysis
* Foster skills for gathering and analyzing media sources and
* Foster skills for reporting the results of discourse and content analysis in the form of a research paper.

This course will be divided into four sections:

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| **SECTION** | **DATES** | **TOPIC** |
| PART I | 1/21-2/25 | * Famous sports scandals
* Doping
* Cheating
* Point shaving
* Illegal gambling
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| PART II | 3/4-3/11 | * Olympic committee corruption
* NCAA violations
* NHL, NBA, MLB, and NFL conduct policies
* European and South American football conduct policies
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| PART III | 3/25-4/1 | * Race and sports
* Gender and sports
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| PART IV | 4/8-4/29 | * Sports and violence:
* Fan aggression
* League policies on criminal behavior
* Athletes accused of violent crime
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**Textbook**

While a textbook is currently being written for this course (Adubato & Sachs-Swiderski, Kendall-Hunt Publishing, *forthcoming*), there is no textbook in existence--at present--that covers the scope of this class. It is extremely important, therefore, to attend class lectures. Weekly readings will be posted on Canvas every Sunday night.

**Late assignments**

There is a one-point penalty for each day that an assignment is late. Since this class is based on a 100-point scale and not averaged, a one-point penalty per day can be considerable.

**Announcements:** All announcements and additional course information will be posted on Canvas—please check our class page regularly.

**Grading:** Will be calculated based on a 100-point scale as follows:

Paper #1—Doping, cheating, illegal gambling—due February 25th--worth 20 points

Paper #2—Olympic committee corruption, NCAA violations, NBA, MLB, NHL, and NFL conduct policies. European and South American football leagues can be considered as well—due March 11th--worth 20 points

Paper #3—Race & sports, gender & sports—due April 8th--worth 20 points

Paper #4—Sports and violence: fan aggression and athletes accused of violence—due April 29th--worth 20 points

Final Exam—May 13th--worth 20 points

# Attendance policy

Illness and family emergencies are sometimes unavoidable and it is your responsibility to contact the professor and explain your absence before or on the day of the missed class. Two excused absences are allowed. You will not be successful in this course if you miss more than one unexcused class.  If you cannot attend class when an assignment is due, you must make arrangements to hand-in your assignment. Late papers will be graded accordingly, with a half-grade deduction for each day late. You are responsible for the material you miss.

Also, please be prompt—tardiness is disruptive to the rest of the class.

Finally, watching and/or playing with electronic items such as cell phones or with the Internet on your laptops is tantamount to not attending class. Students exhibiting this behavior during class time will be marked absent.

# **PLEASE NOTE: *Exams must be taken at their scheduled time. Missed exams will be made-up at the discretion of the professor and only for documented, medical reasons*.**

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

A 90–100%

B+ 85-89%

B 80-84%

C+ 75-79%

C 70-74%

D 60-69%

 F <60%

Academic Integrity

As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.