

FALL SEMESTER 2008
College of Applied Health Sciences
Department of Kinesiology and Community Health
KIN 199, Sport, Play and Ethnography, 3 credits

CRN 51837, sec. D3
Tuesdays 6:00-8:50 PM, 224 Freer

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Course description

This course, a First Year Discovery Program *and* an Ethnography of the University Initiative (EUI), has two major interrelated aims:

1. the course introduces students to cultural ethnographic method/theory and criticism related to the study of contemporary sport and play. This is accomplished by sampling both older “classic” works and recent significant projects in the area of study.
2. throughout the semester, students are engaged in original primary research/ fieldwork¹ centered on “something that matters” that is “somehow” connected to sport and/or play within our University of Illinois community. The work of the semester is not so much on a final “polished” ethnography, but rather upon ongoing reflection of issues such as:
 - What is my specific topic of interest?
 - What are the key terms, questions, data, and significance of my unique project?
 - What links can be made between my work and others ideas/experiences?
 - In what genres/forms can I communicate the above to others?

We will use MOODLE (a course management system and community) to manage and communicate our ongoing work in the course. Students will be responsible for making a short, informal presentation at the EUI's Student Mini-Conference held toward the end of the semester and for submitting a final project. Student's final projects will be preserved in IDEALS (Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship), for future students, and others, to draw upon.

Required readings

Most readings will be available on E-reserve (either under “KIN 249” or “KIN 199”), accessed through the Library gateway: <http://www.library.illinois.edu/>

Online tutorial for E-reserves:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/reserves/accessingReservesTutorial.html>

E-reserve quick problem solving guide:

<http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/reserves/problemSolvingGuides.html>

Other readings will be distributed in class or accessed through the internet.

Classroom policies

To insure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students who require assistance to participate in this class are asked to contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance, academic integrity, etc.: All rules, rights and responsibilities as outlined in the most recent UIUC Student Code will be followed in this course; see <http://www.admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/index.html>

¹ “Because EUI involves sustained ethnographic inquiry and research on human subjects, all data collection are carried out in compliance with carefully defined research protocols approved by the Institutional Review Board. Students will be responsible for EUI consent forms, intellectual property forms, and research summary forms. Towards the end of the semester, EUI student submit research summaries to the IRB, documenting the number of subjects interviewed (including their demographic profiles), where interviews took place, and how subjects were recruited to participate” accessed at http://www.eui.uiuc.edu/resources_board.html

Please take note of these specific class policies:

Class attendance, preparation, discussion, and participation in the online portion of the class are expected. There are no opportunities for extra credit in the course and late work will not be accepted. To get credit for work, students must be on time and present for the entire class meeting on the due date.

Assignments and grading

MOODLE entries	25%
In-class work	25%
EUI's Student Mini-Conference presentation ²	25%
Final project	25%

Grade Scale

91-100	A
81-90	B
71-80	C
61-70	D
0- 60	F

Semester Schedule

Introduction and Key Terms

August 26

In-class screening: *Wrestling with Manhood: Boys, Bullying and Battering* (2002, Media Education Foundation)

Classics in Sport and Play Ethnography

September 2

Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight," *Daedalus*, Fall 2005, Vol. 134, No. 4, pp. 56-86. Originally published *Daedalus*, Winter 1972. Article available at <http://www.spcomm.uiuc.edu/csandvig/classes/Geertz.pdf>

In-class screening: *Trobriand Cricket: An Ingenious Response to Colonialism*; and selections from Seinfeld, "The Little Jerry" (original air date December 1996).

September 9

Michael L. Silk, "Sporting Ethnography: Philosophy, Methodology and Reflection," in David L. Andrews, Daniel S. Mason and Michael L. Silk, eds., *Qualitative Methods in Sports Studies*. Oxford: Berg Publishers, 2005, pp. (distributed in class)

Catherine Palmer, "'Shit Happens': The Selling of Risk in Extreme Sport," *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*, 2002, 13/3, 323-336. (e-reserve, KIN 249)

In-class screening: *In Whose Honor: Indian Mascots and Nicknames in Sports* (1999, New Day Films)

September 16

Sherrie A. Inness, "Barbie Gets a Bum Rap: Barbie's Place in the World of Dolls," and Meg Wolitzer, "Barbie as Boy Toy," in Yona Zeldis McDonough, ed., *The Barbie Chronicles*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1999, pp. 177-181; 207-210.

In-class screening: *Barbie Nation: An Unauthorized Tour* (2003, El Rio Productions)

September 23

² The EUI conference gives students a chance to present their findings in a professional conference environment, expand their connections with fellow researchers, discover different ways of approaching their topics, and make connections to new lines of inquiry. These student projects will soon become part of EUI's IDEALS Archives and serve as resources for future student research on the university.

Susan Brownell, *Training the Body for China: Sports in the Moral Order of the People's Republic*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 1-10, 28-33, 161-173, 213-216, 227-228.

Iain Borden, *Skateboarding, Space and the City: Architecture and the Body*. New York and Oxford: Berg Publishers, 2001, pp. 1-6; 89-111; 173-192. (e-reserve, KIN 249)

September 29

C.L. Cole and Samantha King, "The New Politics of Urban Consumption: *Hoop Dreams*, *Clockers* and "America" in Ralph C. Wilcox, David L. Andrews, Richard Irwin and Robert Pitter, eds., *Sporting Dystopias: The Making and Meaning of Urban Sport Cultures*. Albany: Statue University of New York Press, pp. 221-246.

In-class screening of selections from *Hoop Dreams* (1994, Criterion) and *Clockers* (1999, Universal Studios)

New Racism

October 7

Kyle Kusz, *Revolt of the White Athlete: Race, Media and the Emergence of Extreme Athletes in America*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2007, Preface, pp. 1-16, 173-187. (e-reserve, KIN 249)

In-class screening of selections from: *Chlorine: A Pool Skating Documentary* (2003, Chlorine Films); *Murderball* (2005, Velocity/Thinkfilm); and *Dogtown and Z-Boys* (2002, Columbia TriStar)

October 14

David J. Leonard, "To the White Extreme: Conquering Athletic Space, White Manhood, and Racing Virtual Reality," in Nate Garrelts, ed., *Digital Gameplay: Essays on the Nexus of Game and Gamer*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, Inc., 2005, pp. 110-129. (e-reserve, KIN 249)

Maureen Margaret Smith and Becky Beal, "'So You Can See How the Other Half Lives': MTV 'Cribs' Use of 'the Other' in Framing Successful Athletic Masculinities," *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* 31/2, May 2007, 103-127. (e-reserve, KIN 249)

Body Culture

October 21

Rachel Dilley, "Climbing Tales: Gendered Body Narratives and Stories of Strength," Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, Conference Proceedings—"Thinking Gender—the NEXT Generation. UK Postgraduate Conference in Gender Studies, 21-22 June 2006, University of Leeds, UK, e-paper no. 14. Available at:

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/gender-studies/events/epapers/epaper14%20Rachel%20Dilley.pdf>

Holly Thorpe, "Foucault, Technologies of Self, and the Media: Discourses of Femininity in Snowboarding Culture," *Journal of Sport & Social Issues* May 2008 32, 199-229.

In-class screening: *Playing Unfair: The Media Image of the Female Athlete* (2002, Media Education Foundation,)

Fieldwork

October 28

James Ivaska, "The Student Soldier Athlete: Representations of Athletes at the University of Illinois in the 1940s," unpublished paper for KIN 494, "Illinois Athletics: Traditions and Transitions, University of Illinois Spring 2006, archived at IDEALS <http://hdl.handle.net/2142/1874> (this is a sample of student EUI work)

Belinda Wheaton, "Windsurfing: A Culture of Commitment," in Robert E. Rinehart and Synthia Sydnor, eds., *To the Extreme: Alternative Sports, Inside and Out*. State University of New York Press, 2005, chap. 5, pp. 75-101. (e-reserve, KIN 249)

November 4, 11, 18; December 2

December 9

Important final class meeting