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

Instructor: Dr. Synthia Sydnor  Phone: 333-3877
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Office hours: Thursdays, 9-11AM and by appointment

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

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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” 

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

September 9
In-class screening: In Whose Honor: Indian Mascots and Nicknames in Sports (1999, New Day Films)

September 16
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 EUIs IDEALS Archives and serve as resources for future student research on the university.


**September 29**


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

**New Racism**

**October 7**


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**


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**


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

**Fieldwork**

**October 28**


**November 4, 11, 18; December 2**

**December 9**

Important final class meeting