I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: Sociology of Sport: Soc. 233

B. Modified or New Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2008

D. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3                Lecture: 3

   Laboratory: 0

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 3

G. Prerequisites: None

H. Laboratory Fees: None

I. Name and Phone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair: Steven Kaufman, skaufman@raritanval.edu.

II. Catalog Description

There are no prerequisites required for this course.
An examination of sport as a significant aspect of modern culture and a major institution of modern society. Among the topics that will be analyzed include: gender and sports, sports as an economic enterprise, sports in high school and college and the issues of social class and race in sports.

III. Statement of Course Need

Spectator and participant sports have become one of the most pervasive aspects of modern society. It permeates the mass media, the family, our educational system, and has become an 80 billion dollar industry. Newspapers commonly devote more space to sports than any other single topic. The Olympics, World Cup, and Super
Bowl generate more interest and attention to almost any other global event. Athletes have become some of the most widely recognized personalities on the planet. Many individuals devote an enormous amount of their personal lives to sport as both active participants and sedentary viewers. In recent years the academic community has come to recognize the centrality of sport and to study it because of its importance. This course will be valuable to students who participate, watch, or just interested in the centrality of sport as a cultural institution.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This is NOT a General Education course.
C. This course meets a program Requirement for the AA in Social Sciences.
D. This course, according to www.njtransfer.org is transferable.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Introduction to The Sociology of Sports
B. Sports and Socialization
C. Sports in High School
D. Sports in Colleges and Universities
E. Sports and Gender
F. Sports and Race
G. The Big Three: Baseball
H. The Big Three: Football
I. The Big Three: Basketball
J. Sports and Social Class
K. Sports and Three
L. Sports and The Economy

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals

Students will:

1. Contrast various sociological approaches to athletic issues (G.E. 1,2,4,6)
2. Summarize sociological paradigms in discussions and writing (G.E. 1,2)
3. Employ sociological terminology in discussion and writing (G.E. 1,4)
4. Interpret texts for discussion and writing (G.E. 1,2)
5. Report on the analysis of sports related films in discussion and writing (G.E. 1,2)
6. Identify the ethical implications of corporate sponsorship of athletic teams and contests (G.E. 1,2,5,6)
7. Identify the ethical implications regarding drug use and drug tests in athletic performance (G.E. 1,2,5,6)

B. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. Assess whether or not sports builds character
2. Discuss issues regarding the specialization of sport participation at an early age and associated injuries
3. Examine the history of the big three American sports—baseball, football, basketball
4. Assess how sports can unite but also be divisive with regard to race, gender, class, and nationality
5. Discuss the controversy regarding names, logos, and rituals associated with certain sports teams
6. Examine the use of drugs to enhance sports performance
7. Discuss whether sports is an avenue of social mobility or a fantasy that traps and dooms minorities
8. Analyze the relationship between race and sport performance
9. Examine whether sports break or reinforce gender stereotypes
10. Assess whether sport franchises are a boon or drain to the municipalities that sponsor them.
11. Examine the professionalization of high school and college sports
12. Examine the history and controversy of Title IX
13. Discuss changes in the consumption of sports
14. Examine sports gambling and betting

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. lecture/discussion
B. small group work
C. independent study
D. oral presentation

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and Other Assessment Instruments

A. essays
B. group collaboration
C. journals
D. research papers
IX. Grade Determinants

A. Response Papers
B. Class participation and preparation
C. Research projects
D. Short papers

X. Texts and Materials

A. Suggested textbooks:
   Stanley Eitzen, *Fair and Foul*
   Michael Mandelbaum, *The Meaning of Sports*
   Benjamin Rader, *American Sports*
   H.G. Bissinger, *Friday Night Lights*
B. web sources
C. films
D. audio sources
E. primary and secondary sources

XI. Resources