WGSS 240 - Gender and Sport Learning Outcomes

Social Processes and Institutions Learning Outcomes

Describe how students in this course will use theoretical frameworks to evaluate the role of an individual within social processes and institution.

*Students begin the course with an examination of a variety of theoretical frameworks which have been used to examine gender. Students then apply those frameworks as they examine how experiences in sport are influenced by gender, hegemonic forms of masculinity and femininity, social class, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity.*

Describe how students in this course will analyze current social issues and place them in a historical context.*

*Students examine the historical foundations of sport in the United States as a site for creating gender difference and then make connections to the current experiences of participants and non-participants. Current social issues examined include: the expression of hegemonic masculinity and femininity via sport, the experiences of the LGBT community in sport, the media and sport, the intersection of race and ethnicity with gender, Title IX and social mobility for women in sport.*

Describe opportunities that students in this course will have to critique the nature, value, and limitations of the basic methods of the social sciences.*

*In the first unit of the course, students are introduced to theories for studying gender and sport and through this reading will learn of the differences and limitations to the different approaches. During that week’s discussion students will be asked to specifically critique the different theoretical approaches they have read about and to comment on the limitations of them.*

Describe any other ways that students will develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills.*

*Students complete written papers requiring that they apply theory to a specific issue - frequently conducting their own research. The assignment topics are those which require students to think critically about the messages they and others receive about and via sport and compare their findings to the findings of other researchers. In many cases they will be conducting their own research using the methods described in the readings from class. Further, they offer explanations for similarities or differences to their findings. Students are also required to participate in weekly discussions which ask them to review current issues such as OSU’s compliance with Title IX, media portrayals of women in sport, the expression of traditional hegemonic masculinity in sport and offer explanations for (or debate with their classmates about) their findings. A central theme to the course material is the development of critical thinking skills as sport is an institution which is not often questioned or seen as a site through which dominant ideologies are manifest.*
Measurable Student Learning Outcomes (from course syllabus):

Students learning will be assessed using three specific tools:

1. Each week they participate in a discussion which specifically relates to one of the topics below. Students are often required to gather data, make observations, find examples which illustrate concepts they have learned via class readings.
2. Students are tested on their understanding of the material listed below via a weekly quiz as well as a mid term and final exam.
3. Students are required to complete 2 activity papers which require further investigation of one or more of the specific outcomes below

Following are the Measurable Student Learning Outcomes:

Successful students should be able to communicate an understanding of sport as a gendered institution from a cultural, psychosocial, and political perspective by:

- Explaining the key theories in social sciences as they relate gender, power and sport.

  Students will participate in weekly discussions as well as completing a weekly quiz over required reading material which specifically addresses this topic. Many discussion topics and all quizzes and exams will include the application of theories discussion in class readings. Additionally, students will write two papers which require them to apply theories from class to specific topics

- Identifying historical foundations of the gendered nature of sport in the United States

  Students will participate in a weekly discussion on this topic as well as completing a weekly quiz exam questions which cover required material which specifically relates to this topic. Students will have the option to choose to write one of their papers about a historically significant individual and to relate her experiences within the larger historical context.

- Analyzing the media and representations of men and women in sport.

  Students will participate in a weekly discussion as well as completing a weekly quiz and exam questions which cover the reading material which specifically relates to this topic. Additionally, students will have the option to choose to complete an analysis of popular media as one of their paper topics.

- Communicating issues of race/ethnicity for men and women in sport.

  Students will participate in multiple discussions related to the intersection of race/ethnicity and gender as well as completing a weekly quiz and exam questions which cover the reading material which specifically relates to this topic. Students will have the option to choose this as a topic for one of their papers.
• Discussing the sport experiences of members of the LGBTQ communities and how this relates to their status in society.

Students will participate in a weekly discussion on this topic as well as completing a weekly quiz and exam questions which cover required reading material which specifically relates to this topic. Students will have the option to choose to write one of their papers about an athlete who is a member of the LGBTQ community and how their experience relates to the theory discussed in class readings.

• Exploring the experiences of transgendered athletes and the policies which govern their participation

Students will participate in a weekly discussion as well as completing a weekly quiz and exam questions which cover required material which specifically relates to this topic. Students will have the option to choose to write one of their papers about the specific policies for transgendered athletes and how those policies have had an effect on the lives and experiences of participants.

• Identifying the influence of hegemonic femininity and masculinity on the construction of and participation in sport

Each weekly discussion, quiz, exam and paper will address the concepts of hegemonic femininity/masculinity in some fashion. As traditional definitions of femininity and masculinity are a core issue in this course, it will be a feature each week. Therefore, each weekly quiz, exam, and paper topic will touch upon this topic in some way.