

SOCI 387: Hockey and Canadian Culture
Winter 2022
Dr. Lynda Harling Stalker
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Monday 11:15am and Thursday 12:45pm
Office hours Mondays – Wednesday 1-2pm



This course sets out to explore the intersection between ice hockey and Canada's socio-cultural identity. The course will have students immerse themselves in contemporary academic literature to understand the social, cultural, political, and economic nuances of hockey in the Canadian context.

Objectives:

1. Conceptualise and theorise the “uncomfortable facts” about hockey using a sociological imagination.
 - a. This is done by attending lectures, engaging with classroom discussions (online and in-person) and doing deep-dive reading of the course texts.
 - b. This will be evaluated through mini-assignments posted throughout the term on the “Insights” tab (10%) and final exam (worth 30%; scheduled by the registrar’s office).
2. Write academically about hockey.
 - a. This will be done by learning how to write a critical book review.
 - b. This will be evaluated through the completion of a critical book review of either: *Game Change: the life and death of Steve Montadoro and the future of hockey*; or *Before the lights go out: A season inside a game on the brink* (Due March 31; worth 25%). The books are available at the Campus Store.
3. Write publicly about hockey.
 - a. This will be done by learning how to write op-ed pieces.

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- b. This will be evaluated by completing **five** op-ed pieces throughout the term. Students will have the choice of which modules (there are eight all together) they would like their op-ed piece to connect with (5x7% = 35%; due one week after the module is completed). If you get one of your op-eds published in a newspaper or popular blog site before April 28th, you can earn 5% bonus marks added onto your final grade.

Classroom Technology:

This course will use Microsoft Teams as its learning platform. Online classes will happen on Teams, assignments will be posted and uploaded on Teams, and chats and office hours will happen on Teams. We will not be using Moodle in this class.

Modules (readings are found on the SOCI 387 Team site):

1. Sociological and historical context for / of hockey (January 17-24)
 - a. *Here we will look at the way sport generally, and hockey specifically, have been framed within sociology. We will also examine the ways in which hockey has historically become intertwined with the idea of being Canada's sport.*
 - i. Maguire, J.A. "Towards a sociology of sport."
 - ii. Robidoux, M. "Imagining a Canadian Identity through Sport: A Historical Interpretation of Lacrosse and Hockey."
2. Canadian identity (January 27 – February 3)
 - a. *We will look at how hockey is part of the discourse about being a "Canadian."*
 - i. Kennedy, L. et al. "We are all Broncos."
 - ii. Bondy, P. and H. Ramos. "Arenas of solitude."
 - iii. Rich, K.A. "Rural sport spectacles."
3. Violence (February 7-14)
 - a. *Violence, in all its forms, is one of the most "uncomfortable" facts about hockey.*
 - i. Atkinson, M. and K. Young. "On whiskey, generational osmosis, and thinking 'til it hurts: Eric Dunning and the Canadian Sociology of Sport Figuration."
 - ii. Dennie, M. and P. Millar. Exploring the subcultural norms of the response to violence in hockey
4. Masculinity (February 28-March 10)
 - a. *This module has us questioning how the construction of masculinity affects understandings of hockey.*
 - i. MacDonald, C. and LaFrance. "Girls love me, guys want to be me."
 - ii. Sailofsky, D. and M. Orr. "One step forward, two Tweets back: Exploring cultural backlash and hockey masculinity on Twitter."
 - iii. Boyle, E. "Requiem for a 'tough guy': representing hockey labour, violence and masculinity in *Goon*."
5. Femininity (March 14-March 21)
 - a. *These readings will explore to experiences and roles women play with in a "masculine" sport.*
 - i. DiCarlo, D. "Playing like a girl? The negotiation of gender and sexual identity among female ice hockey athletes on male teams."
 - ii. Crawford, G. and Gosling, V. "The myth of the 'puck bunny': female fans and men's ice hockey."

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- iii. Poniatowdki, K. "The nail polish underneath the hockey gloves."
- 6. Sexuality (March 24-28)
 - a. *In this module, we explore how sexuality (or is not) talked about among hockey community.*
 - i. MacDonald, C. "Insert name of openly gay hockey player here"
 - ii. Webb, M. "World's largest lesbian hockey league"
- 7. Race and Racism (March 31-April 7)
 - a. *These reading are meant to interrogate how race has been constructed in a historically "white" sport.*
 - i. Kalman-Lamb, N. "Whiteness and Hockey in Canada."
 - ii. Lorenz, S. and R. Murray. "The Dennis Rodman of hockey: Ray Emery and the policing of blackness in the Great White North."
 - iii. Valentine, J. "New racism and old stereotypes in the National Hockey League: the 'stacking' of Aboriginal players in the role of the enforcer."
 - iv. Bains, A. and C. Szco. "Brown skin, white ice."
 - v. Shin, R. et al. "Taegeuk warriors with blue eyes."
- 8. Minor / local hockey (April 11-14)
 - a. *This module sees us looking at the organisation of minor hockey and how the pastime plays on Canadians' imagination.*
 - i. Campbell, K. and J. Parcels. "Selling the dream"
 - ii. Johnson, J. and A. Ehsan Ali. "Skating on thin ice? An interrogation of Canada's melting pastime."
 - iii. Riehl, S. et al. "Mechanisms of institutional maintenance in minor hockey."

Late penalties: It is expected that students will hand in their work at the beginning of class time on the due date. For every day that work is handed in late (including weekends), students will be assigned a 5% deduction to their grade.

Awareness: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this class. If you are unsure what either of these entails and the penalties associated with them, please consult the university's Academic Calendar.

The classroom is one that embodies respect and dignity. Please be sure to give this to the professor, visitors and fellow students. This mean that disagreements and questions about ideas are welcome, but not personal attacks and slurs. Also, please put mobile technology away during class time. The "glow" of cell phones and the like is distracting to all around. If your friends, mother or grandfather don't like the fact that that you didn't answer their SnapChat right away, please let them know that they are more than welcome to contact Dr. Harling Stalker, and she will explain the classroom policy. Please don't make Dr. Harling Stalker have to do this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bu3Z3Xdynw>

Accommodation: If you require accommodation, please see Dr. Harling Stalker as soon as possible.

Drop date for Winter 2022 courses is March 22.

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