

SOCI 387: Hockey and Canadian Culture

Winter 2018

Dr. Lynda Harling Stalker

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Mondays 12:45pm and Wednesdays 11:15am

Office hours Monday and Wednesday 9-10:30am or by appointment

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.

The format of the course will have students complete weekly readings, meet with the class to discuss the readings in relation to current events and attend lectures, and complete either a report or a service learning component.

Evaluations

Midterm and final (each worth 35%): Each of these will require the students to demonstrate the knowledge and analytical skills they have developed. Midterm **February 14**; final is scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Recommendation report (30%): Students are expected to read **one** of these three books:

Stickhandling through the margins: First nations hockey in Canada

Hockey, PQ: Canada's game in Quebec's popular culture

Game Change: the life and death of Steve Montadore and the future of hockey

Using the book as primary source material and class readings as supplement, you are to write a report to Gary Bettman, Commissioner of the NHL, on how to make hockey better for the foreseeable future. What is the good news about the bad news? It is expected that this report is to be 7-10 pages, properly referenced, and convincing. More details will be given in class. Due **March 19**.

Service Learning (30%): Twelve students will be provided with the opportunity to work with the Antigonish Minor Hockey Association. Students will help with completing game sheets and running clocks during games, assisting with the Learn to Play programme, reviewing the association's bylaws and assisting with a tournament. If more than twelve students show interest then there will be a random selection. Students who are going to be helping with the Learn to Play programme must be competent skaters. Criminal record checks will be required before the student can begin their placement. The expectation that each student will complete 20 hours of volunteer time, and write a 5-page reflection piece on the experiential learning.

Course Readings

Introduction (January 3-8)

Here we will look at the way sport generally, and hockey specifically, have been framed within sociology.

Beamish, R. "Slipping the surly bonds of Earth: Discovering hockey's elusive reality."

Maguire, J.A. "Towards a sociology of sport."

Historical Context (January 10-15)

We will examine the ways in which hockey has historically become intertwined with the idea of being Canada's sport

Robidoux, M. "Imagining a Canadian Identity through Sport: A Historical Interpretation of Lacrosse and Hockey."

Dawson, L. "The 'Dominion Challenge': Understanding Canadian national identity through the development of organized hockey and the birth of the Stanley Cup."

Dryden, K. "Chapters 3 and 5" *Game Change*.

Methodological concerns (January 17)

This week we will look at different methodological approaches to exploring hockey.

Allain, K. A. " 'What happens in the room stays in the room': conducting research with young men in the Canadian Hockey League."

Masculinity (January 22-29)

This week we look at how the construction of masculinity affects understandings of hockey.

Allain, K.A. "Kid Crosby or Golden Boy: Sidney Crosby, Canadian national identity and the policing of hockey masculinity."

MacDonald, C. "Masculinity and sport revisited: a review of literature on hegemonic masculinity and men's ice hockey in Canada."

Boyle, E. "Requiem for a 'tough guy': representing hockey labour, violence and masculinity in *Goon*."

Race and Racism (January 31-February 7)

These readings are meant to interrogate how race has been constructed in a historically "white" sport.

Lorenz, S. and R. Murray. "The Dennis Rodman of hockey: Ray Emery and the policing of blackness in the Great White North."

Valentine, J. "New racism and old stereotypes in the National Hockey League: the 'stacking' of Aboriginal players in the role of the enforcer."

Poniatowdki, K. and E. Whiteside. "'Isn't he a good guy?': Constructions of whiteness at the 2006 Olympic hockey tournament."

Ethnicity (February 12)

Here we will focus on how hockey is embedded in the socio-cultural construction of French Canada.

Richelieu, A and B. Korai. "Identity and sport: young French Canadian and the Montreal Canadiens hockey club."

Harvey, J. "Whose Sweater Is This? The Changing Meanings of Hockey in Quebec."

MIDTERM TEST February 14

Femininity (February 26-March 5)

These readings will explore to experiences and roles women play with in a "masculine" sport.

Poniatowdki, K. "The nail polish underneath the hockey gloves."

DiCarlo, D. "Playing like a girl? The negotiation of gender and sexual identity among female ice hockey athletes on male teams."

Crawford, G. and Gosling, V. "The myth of the 'puck bunny': female fans and men's ice hockey."

Contemporary Canadian identity discourse (March 7-12)

This week will look at how hockey is part of the discourse about being a "Canadian."

Dopp, J. "Win Orr Lose: Searching for the good Canadian kid in Canadian hockey fiction."

Norman, M. "Saturday night's alright for tweeting: cultural citizenship, collective discussion and the new media consumption / production of *Hockey Day in Canada*."

PAPERS DUE March 19

Nationalism and internationalism (March 14-21)

Is hockey experienced differently in other nations?

Watson, S.D. "Everyday nationalism and international hockey: contesting Canadian national identity."

Granstrom, K. "Cheering as an indicator of social identity and self-regulation in Swedish ice hockey supporter groups."

Bellamy, R and K. Shultz. "Hockey Night in the United States? The NHL, Major League Sports, and the Evolving Television/Media Marketplace."

Elliot, R and J. Maguire. "'Getting caught in the net': Examining the recruitment of Canadian players in British professional ice hockey."

Violence (March 26-April 4)

Why do we as a country and a culture put up with such a sport that has the potential to turn violent?

Young, K. and K. Wamsley. "State complicity in sports assault and the gender order in twentieth century Canada: Preliminary observations/"

Kerr, J. "Examining the Bertuzzi–Moore NHL ice hockey incident: Crossing the line between sanctioned and unsanctioned violence in sport."

Matthews, C.R. and A. Channon. "'It's only sport' – The symbolic naturalisation of 'violence'"