

AIS 402: Asian American Sporting Cultures
Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender & Ethnic Studies
Fall 2021

Item	Detail(s)
Time(s):	Wednesday - 8:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Class Location	CBC C-301
Office Location:	CBC B-411
Office Hours:	Wednesday 11:30am to 12:30pm
Phone:	
WebCampus:	https://webcampus.unlv.edu
Email:	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an interdisciplinary study of sports to better understand the historical, social, and cultural aspects of Asian American life. Participation in sport is never an isolated incident but one that involves engagement with mainstream U.S. popular cultural forms, an understanding of the contours of membership in the pan-ethnic category of Asian America, and how Asian Americans perform their own social location as particular racialized subjects. Students will explore the pleasures, desires, politics, and poetics of Asian American sporting cultures paying particular attention to everyday sporting engagements, sporting spectacles, and fandom. Asian Americans’ relationship to sports can provide important understandings of how their sporting cultures take shape in relation to dominant racializations, experiences of U.S. society, and identity formation (as it intersects with gender, sexuality, class, and nation).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- Identify major sociohistorical, political, and economic factors that contribute to understanding Asian Americans’ engagement with sport.
- Critically evaluate the promises, possibilities, and limitations of Asian American sporting cultures by interrogating sport in relation to “Asian America,” class, gender, sexuality, and nation.
- Understand concepts of sporting migration, diaspora, transnationalism, and colonialism.
- Develop foundation skills in critical thinking, written and oral communication.

Required Text

- *Asian American Sporting Cultures*, by Stanley I. Thangaraj, Constancio R. Arnaldo Jr., & Christina B. Chin, (New York University Press, 2016)
- All other readings marked with an asterisk (*)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

You are responsible for knowing the course requirements and class policies as detailed in this syllabus. Throughout the semester, the answers to many of your questions are most likely to be addressed in the syllabus. This class emphasizes active learning and participation. Fulfillment of these expectations will be evaluated in several ways:

Requirements	Points
Attendance and Participation	150
1 on 1 Virtual Meeting with Professor Arnaldo	50
My Relationship to Sports Paper	150
Reading Discussions (200) & Instagram Post (150)	350
2 Reflection Essays (150)	300
Total	1000

Grading Scale

A	95 – 100
A-	90 – 94
B+	87 – 89
B	84 – 86
B-	80 – 83
C+	77 – 79
C	74 – 76
C-	70 – 73
D+	67 – 69
D	64 – 66
D-	60 – 63
F	00 - 59

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Regular attendance, reading, and active participation are important requirements. Students are expected to attend class on time; complete the assigned readings; come to class prepared to discuss the readings; and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions. Readings are assigned to correspond with the weekly theme in lecture. It is required that you read the article(s)/chapter(s) assigned for each week before Tuesday's class. All required readings are available for download on Canvas.

ONE, 1:1 MEETING WITH PROFESSOR ARNALDO (Week 9)

You are required to meet with me once during the semester to discuss your progress in the course and to "check-in." Because we are living in incredibly uncertain times, it is important for me to check in and see where you're at relative to the course and the semester. I will create a Google doc (we will meet via Google hangouts using your UNLV email) and share the sign-up sheet with each of you. The sign-up sheet is on a first come, first served basis. If you do not meet with me during your scheduled meeting, you will receive a "0" for the assignment. You may not make-up points for missing meetings, nor will I re-book a missed appointment.

"MY RELATIONSHIP TO SPORTS" PAPER

Autobiographical in nature, this 3-4 page paper asks you to discuss, if any, your relationship to sports. If you don't have a relationship with sports, why is that? The paper will ask you to reflect upon your earliest sports memories, your introduction to sports, your family's engagement/or not of sports, and how your positionality (how you see the world) shapes your experiences with sports. Your perceptions of Asian Americans in sports (there is no right or wrong response). Is there an Asian American athlete that you like and why? Or what type of representations (e.g. images on social media) have you seen and what message do you think these representations are saying about Asian Americans in sports? Details to follow.

READING DISCUSSIONS AND INSTAGRAM POST:

Students will team up in pairs and lead a 30 minute discussion on assigned readings once during class. The first opportunity to sign up for this assignment is February 4. This assignment is meant for the class to delve deeper into a specific topic in the texts as they pertain to the experiences of Asian Americans and sports. The topics of these discussions are determined by the reading schedule. A sign-up sheet will be distributed in class. Because there is a paucity of research/attention on Asian Americans and sports, this course will use Instagram to build an Asian American sporting cultures digital "archive." Once you have completed your discussion, you will then find an image related to the reading(s) and write up a short Instagram post. You are not required to have an Instagram account, nor are you obligated to publicly attach your name to the post. This constitutes your final project. Details to follow.

2 REFLECTION ESSAYS

Students are required to submit two 1000 word essays. The essays are intended to do provide students with a space to reflect upon the various issues and topics covered in class. The paper should be *at least* 1000 words (12 font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides, with page numbers). All essays must be in doc or docx format (PDFs or any other file type are not acceptable. You will automatically receive a zero if your paper is not in doc or docx.) The essay must be submitted on Canvas. *Note: If you are using Google docs, be sure to save as a doc or docx file. If any paper is submitted late without being previously excused by the professor, your grade on the assignment will be lowered. The number of points deducted will depend upon the relative lateness of the submission. It is better to turn in work late to receive some credit, rather than not turn in work and receive no credit. See course schedule for due dates. Guidelines to follow.

UNLV Policies

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas. UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>, which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy. UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy), <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy>, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization. To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](#) webpage,

<https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=8271&hl=>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate’s policy, and an infringement on the student’s right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV’s official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students’ Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students.

For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

Topic	Dates	LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE
<i>Introduction to Course</i>	8/24 & 8/26	Week 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Foreword: Success, Failure, and Everything in Between,” by Jack Halberstam • “<u>Asian American Athletes Speak out Against Coronavirus Racism</u>” by Martenzie Johnson(*)
<i>You Play Sports? Really?</i>	9/31 & 9/2	Week 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Introduction: You Play Sports? Asian American Sporting Matters,” by Stanley Thangaraj, Constancio Arnaldo, & Christina Chin • “On the Cultural Politics of Asian American Sports” by Rachael Joo and Sameer Pandya (*)
<i>Situating Empire in Asian American Sport</i>	9/7 & 9/9	Week 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “From Perpetual Foreigner to Pacific Rim Entrepreneur: The U.S. Military, Asian Americans, and the Circuitous Path of Sport,” by Ryan Reft • “Sport” by Gerald R. Gems(*) ** “My Relationship to Sports” Paper Due**
<i>Boxing and Sporting Migrants</i>	9/14 & 9/16	Week 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker: Bernard Remollino (February 9) • “Scrapping into a Knot: Pinoy Boxers, Transpacific Fans, and the Troubling of Interwar California’s Racial Regimes” by Bernard Remollino (*)
<i>The Chinese Playground</i>	9/21 & 9/23	Week 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Tuesday] “From Living Doll to Bolo Puncher,” by Linda Espana-Maram (*) • [Thursday] “Helen Wong and the ‘Muscle Molls’” by Kathleen Yep (*)
<i>Sport and Incarceration</i>	9/28 & 9/30	Week 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball in Nikkei America by Samuel Regalado(*) • “Barbed Wire Baseball” by Samuel Regalado (*)
<i>J-Leagues and Ballers</i>	10/5 & 10/7	Week 7 **Response Paper 1 Due**
<i>Collapsing Poles of Americanness and Asian-ness</i>	10/12 & 10/14	Week 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethnic Studies Teach-in (March 9) • “The Continued Legacy of Japanese American Youth Basketball Leagues,” by Christina B. Chin (*)
<i>Check-Ins</i>	10/19 & 10/21	Week 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 on 1 Meetings with Professor Arnaldo
<i>Boogie</i>	10/26 & 10/28	Week 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film Screening: <i>Boogie</i> (Tuesday and Thursday) • Class Discussion (Thursday)

<i>Contradictions of Asian American Masculine Ballers</i>	11/2 & 11/4	Week 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Everyday Play” by Stanley Thangaraj (*) • “Breaking the Cycle” by Stanley Thangaraj (*)
<i>The Hypersexuality of Race and the Forever Foreigner</i>	11/9 & 11/11	Week 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Martial Arts, Caged Orientalism, and Female Asian American Bodies,” by Jessica Chin and David Andrews • “Model Minorities and Monstrous Selves by Elena Tajima Creff (*)
<i>Underdogs and Model Minorities</i>	11/16 & 11/18	Week 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Everybody Loves an Underdog: Learning from Linsanity by Oliver Wang” • “Indian Americans and the ‘Brain Sport’ of Spelling Bees” by Pawan Dhingra **Response Paper 2 Due**
<i>South Asian Canadian Hockey</i>	11/23 & 11/25	Week 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “White Spaces Different Faces” by Courtney Szto (*) • “South Asian Masculinities and Femininities” by Courtney Szto (*)
<i>Rethinking Sporting Bodies</i>	11/30 & 12/2	Week 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Afterword: Competing against Type,” by Lisa Lowe
<i>Course Summation and Finals Week</i>	12/7 & 12/9	Week 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections on Asian American Sporting Cultures **Instagram Assignment Due**