

**SOCIOLOGY 498: Senior Seminar: Sports in Society**  
**Fall 2016**

**Instructor:** Dr. Heather Flynn

**Contact Information:** heather.flynn@sonoma.edu

**General Education:** No

**Method:** Statistics; Secondary Analysis of Quantitative Data

**Prerequisites:** Students must complete Sociology 300 and Sociology 375 with grades of C- or higher, as well as at least 16 additional sociology units, before enrolling in Sociology 498. In addition, students must earn at least a C- in Soci 498 in order to get credit for Senior Seminar toward the major requirements. Students must file for Fall 2016 graduation in order to be eligible to enroll in Soci 498.

**Course Catalog Description**

Capstone course for the major that requires advanced sociological research. Several different topics are offered each semester. Past examples include women and aging, food and society, gender and politics, and the sociology of time. Check department for course offerings. Required for all majors. May be repeated for credit.

**Course Description and Objectives**

The theme of the course is Sports in Society; research projects will be based upon this subject. Weekly topics as they relate to sports include sport research and theory, socialization, children/youth sports, deviance, violence, gender, race, social class, the economy, media, politics, and high school & college sports. This course will introduce students to statistics using secondary analysis of quantitative data. Secondary analysis is (1) the use of data collected by someone other than the researcher and (2) is one of the primary analytical methods used in quantitative Sociology. In this course, students will not collect their own data, but will analyze quantitative data collected from a nationally representative sample and write an original research paper (20 pages minimum).

The course will explore the following topics: research design; operationalization and measurement; establishing causality; statistical inference; and basic and intermediate statistics, including probability, cross-tabulations, z-scores, t-tests, correlation, chi-square, and multiple regression. A major component of the course will be using SPSS, a statistics software program, to analyze the data.

This course is highly recommended for students planning to attend graduate school in Sociology and for students interested in research careers.

**Required TEXTS & TOOLS**

- TBD
- Additional readings on Moodle
- Handheld calculator

**Course Requirements and Grading (Subject to Change)**

Students will be required to complete weekly statistics homework and several statistics SPSS lab assignments in addition to the following research assignments: research question, literature review, research proposal, hypotheses, final presentation, and final research paper (*minimum* 20 pages).

- Exams: 30%
- Research Project/Paper & Lab Assignments: 60%
- Attendance and Statistics Homework: 10%