

Sports and Culture
ANTH2390/UGEC2664
Anthropology Department
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Tentative Syllabus - Spring 2022 (v0_Nov2021)

Lecture: Thursday 14:30 – 16:15 (UCA_312)

Tutorial: Thursday 16:30 – 17:15 (UCA_312)

Instructor: Marco Montagner (anthropologyofmovement_at_gmail.com)

Teaching Assistant: TBC

Course Description

Why do millions of people all over the world play sports? Why do different countries have different popular sports? What is it about sports that attract so many people and money? Has it always been this way? Sport captures the minds and bodies of billions of people around the world and has an immense significance in our everyday lives. This course engages different cross-cultural examples of sport and introduces students to the relationship between sport and its sociocultural setting. Sports inform and create certain lifestyles and values: they are about cooperation, inclusion, and fair play. But they are also about competition, inequality, and violence. Sports are highly structured, and yet at the same time totally unpredictable. Sports transmit moral principles and shapes attitudes to life, but might also undermine authority and contribute to social instability. Sport can both unite and divide teams, groups of people, and even entire nations.

Sports are not only shaped by society, but sports themselves shape society. This is because sports are dynamically intertwined with various sociocultural aspects (like morality, class, gender, ethnicity, nationalism, globalization, political economy, and so on). Students will explore different cross-cultural examples of sports from all over the world, introducing the role and importance of sports in the present and the past, in “modern” and “traditional” societies, seeing the relationship between sports and their sociocultural setting, and how sports are never played in a cultural vacuum.

This course draws on a variety of disciplines including sociology, gender studies, history, and cultural studies, but it will use the anthropological approach, focusing on the experience of those participants (whether practitioners, spectators, or consumers). On a couple of lectures, we might be joined in our classes by some guests; in the last two years, I invited both lesser-known sports athletes and academics studying sports. At the moment, guests are TBC.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to critically question sports, reflecting on how sports are much more than an activity merely for health and leisure, understanding the roles that sports play in contemporary societies, and will be prepared to engage by themselves into the exploration of the array of practices out there. Students will be able to:

- watch sports in an anthropological way, analyzing different kinds of sports critically
- understand the roles that sports play in “modern” and “traditional” societies
- appreciate the complexity and interrelatedness of sport, society, and everyday life; even for people that are completely not interested in sports
- learn to critically reflect on their engagement with sport, as practitioners, spectators, or “outsiders”

Course Assessment

a) Class and Tutorial Participation (20%)

Every student is expected to regularly attend lectures and participate in discussions. Although I do not strictly track attendance, I regularly write down participation, and the two become somehow related. A high participation score comes with active and thoughtful participation on a regular basis, showing interest and preparation for class materials. Class participation is a fundamental part of the class; I believe participation—not simple attendance—is key for courses like this one. Students are also encouraged to prepare questions or to share interesting videos to engage with others during tutorials or on BlackBoard. Remember that when you care (or at least show that you care), the teacher will also care; this is also true for any course or job you will do later in your life.

b) Short Reflection Paper (20%)

1) Pick a recent news report or even a photo about a sports event, trend, or phenomenon. It can be from whatever media (newspaper, news outlet, social media, etc.). Describe what it is and then reflect and comment on it with reference to at least one of the course topics. Critically analyze by raising questions and points of discussion, do not just summarize.

2) Choose a current/former professional athlete/personality and gather some information about the person (from news, biographies, documentaries, etc.). Describe who she/he is, what sport she/he is/was practicing, and provide a short and critical analysis with reference to one or several of the course topics. Don't be too general. You can pick one specific aspect of the athlete and relate it to the course material.

- Students should choose one of these two prompts, and submit the reflection papers by email, in PDF format, within the maximum due date (a fraction of grade will be deducted per every day of delay). Your paper should be 3 to 5 pages long, with at least 2cm margins per side, to allow space for my comments. You can add photos, maps, or graphs if you like, but as an appendix, and I will not count them in the page limit. Please write your name and Student ID only on the last page of the paper: the PDF file's title should be your paper's title instead. Send also your VeriGuide receipt, together or in a separate file.

c) Tutorial Presentation (20%)

Students will make a short presentation during one tutorial, and lead conversation during that week's topic. Groups' dimension should be around 2/3 students, but that may depend on the size of the class and the number of tutorials. The presentations will start in Week 3, after the end of the Add/Drop period. During the presentations, students should illustrate some of the main points of the articles, and then ask their classmates some core questions about the readings. Students are welcome to add materials pertinent to that week's topic. If some students choose to present an additional reading, they should sum it up and then ask some general questions to engage other students in the conversation. If you would like to give a short presentation about a specific topic, let me know in advance, I may reserve one week for unrelated topics.

d) Final Ethnographic Paper (40%)

Pick a sport, game, practice, phenomenon that you are interested in, attend a related event, and write an ethnographic paper about it. It can be offline or online. You can be a direct participant (player, referee..) or a member of the audience (fan, organizer, volunteer..). You can write about a sport that you know well or one that is new to you, which means you can either be an informed insider or a newly arrived outsider; both roles have their advantages. The paper should include your field observations, a few interviews, and a critical discussion of some of the course topics with reference to some of the assigned readings. Instead of merely describing your field observations or summarizing the readings, you should try to use the ideas learned in this course to analyze the event. If you use other people's ideas or words in the paper, remember to cite the sources and list them as "References" at the end. I am available to discuss your topics ideas earlier in the course, both for methodology and ideas. Depending on the Covid-19's restrictions in spring 2022, we will further discuss in class the ethnographic possibilities for your final paper.

- The final paper should be 8 to 10 pages long, double-spaced, and with at least 2cm margins per side to allow for comments. You can add photos, maps, or graphs if you like, attached as an appendix: I will not count them in the page limit. A fraction of the grade will be deducted per every day of delay. Please submit your paper by email in PDF or Word format along with your VeriGuide receipt, together or as separate files.

Grade descriptors

Grade	Criteria for course and coursework assessment: 1)knowledge and understanding of the topic; 2)coursework and use of course materials
A	1) Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. 2) Coursework creatively synthesized course materials and key ideas in an original way, showing a great depth of understanding. Arguments are logical and cohesive, discussion is well-organized, and the writing is clear. All relevant course materials have been fully utilized, and additional material has been searched and meaningfully used to expand the topic.
A-	1) Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes. 2) Coursework synthesized course materials and key ideas in an original way, showing a great depth of understanding. Arguments are logical and cohesive, discussion is well-organized, and the writing is clear. Most of the relevant course materials have been fully utilized, but there are minor areas for improvement.
B-range	1) Substantial performance on all learning outcomes or otherwise an high-performance on some learning outcomes that eventually compensates for other lower-performance learning outcomes. 2) Coursework demonstrates a solid grasp of course materials and key ideas. There are some areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.
C-range	1) Adequate performance on the majority of learning outcomes, with some weaknesses. 2) Coursework shows some effort, but course materials have not been sufficiently engaged. The argument and the writing is not clear, and/or there is no evidence for statements and claims made or how they link to the broader argument. There are major areas for improvement with respect to building a cohesive argument, organizing the discussion, communicating clearly, and/or identifying relevant evidence.
D-range	1) Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. 2) The work shows little effort to engage course materials. There are major problems with clarity of argument and writing, or to properly address the prompt.

F	<p>1) Extremely unsatisfactory performance on most learning outcomes, and/or failure to meet specified coursework assignments.</p> <p>2) Coursework completely failed to respond to the assignment prompt or have not been submitted.</p>
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Academic honesty

CUHK has a policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, details of the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations may be found online (at: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic/honesty/>). CUHK requires all papers to be checked by VeriGuide, a plagiarism detection engine. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines, and procedures. The statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment (at this address: https://academic.veriguide.org/academic/login_CUHK.jsp). Assignments without the receipt will not be graded. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide, and uploading different files or versions through VeriGuide than those submitted to the teacher is also considered dishonest.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for the course: all the book chapters, newspapers, and other articles are available on Blackboard. However, looking at 2021's teaching evaluations, I understand that some students would like to consult a textbook. It may be especially the case of students missing lectures, preparing their papers, or simply wanting to know more about a specific topic. I prepared a list and requested a few new textbooks from our librarians, and now CUHK libraries have all the best manuals in the field. The most recent books are all available in e-copy. You can find the list at the end of this syllabus.

Course Outline

***"Required readings"** are the materials you are expected to read before that week's lecture, for class and tutorial discussions*

***"Additional materials"** are not required, I upload these for those who want to explore more in-depth that week's topic. These materials are also useful in case you missed that class and would like to keep track, as often they represent a good chunk of what I discuss during that week's lecture.*

I tried to keep the required readings around 20/25 pages each week. If you feel some weeks are too "loaded" please notify me in advance. When materials are listed with "OR" it means you can choose one.

Week 1: Course Introduction (13/01/2022)

A few light introductory readings for our first week, please don't skip them!

- Hejtmanek, Katie R. 2016. "Anthropology 101: A Cultural Anthropologist Walks into a Gym"
- Xygalatas, Dimitris. 2019. "How Rituals of Pain Help Heal"
- Ocobock, Cara. 2019. "Sweating Through a Gym's Gender Barriers"
- McDonald, Tom. 2016. "Dancing "My Humps" in Rural China"

Week 2: The Importance of Sports (20/01/2022)

Required readings:

- a. Blanchard, Kendall. 2000. "The Anthropology of Sport"
- b. Fox, J.R. 1961. "Pueblo Baseball: A New Use for Old Witchcraft"

Additional materials:

- Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight"
- Besnier, Niko, and Susan Brownell. 2012. "Sport, Modernity, and the Body"
- Graeber, David. 2014. "What's the Point If We Can't Have Fun?"
- Prettyman, Sandra S. 2010. "Studying Sports: What can we learn, and why do we care?"

Week 3: The Creation of Modern Sports (27/01/2022)

Required readings:

- a. Guttmann, Allen. 2000. "The Development of Modern Sports" (9 pages)
- b. Coakley, Jay J. 2009. "Sport in Society: An Inspiration or an Opiate?" (15 pages)

Additional materials:

- Collins, Tony. 2013. "Sport in Capitalist Society: A Short History"
- Horne, John, Alan Tomlinson, et al. 2013. "Chapter 1: Industrial Society, Social Change and Sports Culture"
- Donnelly, Peter. 2008. "Sport and Social Theory"
- Gorn, E. J. 1985. "'Gouge and Bite, Pull Hair and Scratch': The Social Significance of Fighting in the Southern Backcountry"

No class (Jan 31th- Feb 4th): Happy Lunar New Year!

Week 4: The Rituals of Sports and Sports as Ritual (10/02/2022)

Required Readings:

- a. Real, Michael R. 2003. "Super Bowl: Mythic Spectacle" (12 pages)
- b. Gmelch, George. 2003. "Baseball Magic" (9 pages)

Additional materials:

- Bromberger, Christian. 1995. "Football as World-View and as Ritual" (17 pages)
- Dundes, Alan. 1999. "Into the End Zone for a Touchdown: A Psychoanalytical Consideration of American Football" (9 pages)
- Cheska, Taylor A. 1981 "Sports Spectacular: The Social Ritual of Power" (14 pages)
- Sciamia, Lidia D. 1996. "The Venice Regatta: from Ritual to Sport"
- DeBiasi, Rocco and Pierre Lanfranchi. 1997. "The Importance of Difference: Football Identities in Italy"

Week 5: Sport, Ethics and Moral Education (17/02/2022)

Required Readings:

- a. Lipsyte, Robert. 2009. "Outraged over the Steroids Outrage" (3 pages)
- b. Eitzen, D. Stanley. 2009. "Ethical Dilemmas in American Sport: The Dark Side of Competition" (10 pages)
- c. Kottak, Conrad. 1995. "Swimming in Cross-Cultural Currents" (9 pages)
- d. Hoffman, S. James. 2010. "Whatever Happened to Play?" (5 pages)

Additional materials:

- Waddington, Ivan. 2000. "Doping in Sport: Towards a Sociological Understanding"
- Harding, Luke. 2005. "Forgotten Victims of East German Doping Take Their Battle to Court"
- Epstein, David. 2014. "Sports Should Be Child's Play"
- Ripley, Amanda. 2013. "The Case Against High-School Sports"
- Zivin et al. 2001. "An effective approach to violence prevention: Traditional martial arts in middle school"
- Suggested volume if you are interested: Jordan-Young, Rebecca, and Katrina Karkazis. 2019. *Testosterone: An Unauthorized Biography*. Harvard University Press. (Online access).

Week 6: Sports, Gender and Sexuality (24/02/2022)

Required readings:

- a. Bryson, Lois. 1987. "Sport and the Maintenance of Masculine Hegemony" (11 pages)
- b. Hartmann, Douglas. 2003. "The Sanctity of Sunday Football: Why Men Love Sports" (8 pages)
- c. Reyeh, Zofia. 2017. "Climbing, Sex And The Olympics", HuffPost article (2 pages)

Additional materials:

- Howe, P. David. 2003. "Kicking Stereotypes into Touch: An Ethnographic Account of Women's Rugby" (16 pages)
- Messner, Michael A. 2003. "When Bodies Are Weapons: Masculinity and Violence in Sport." (15 pages)
- Heissenberger, Stefan. 2016. "Travelling European Gay Footballers: Tournaments as an Integration Ritual"
- Sterod, Brandon. 2010. "Come Out and Play Confronting Homophobia in Sports"
- Cahn, Susan. 2010. "From 'Muscle Moll' to 'Butch' Ballplayer: Mannishness, Lesbianism, and Homophobia in US Women's Sport" (23p.)
- Prettyman, Sandra S. 2010. "Jocks Rule-Girls Drool: Middle cool Definitions of a Jock" (17 pages)
- Wheaton, Belinda. 2002. *Babes on the beach, women in the surf; Researching gender, power and difference in the windsurfing culture* (23p.)
- Jordan-Young, Rebecca, Peter Sönksen and Katrina Karkazis. 2014. "Sex, health, and athletes" (on hyperandrogenism regulations) (4p.)
- Suggested volume if you are interested: Bolin, Anne, and Jane Granskog. 2003. "Athletic intruders : ethnographic research on women, culture, and exercise". Albany: SUNY Press. (Online access and one copy available at CC Library).

Week 7: Sports and the Body (I) Power, Body Politics and Bodily Regimes (03/03/2022)

(Guest: TBC)

Required readings:

- a. Barland, Bjorn. 2005. "The Gym: Place of Bodily Regimes – Training, Diet, and Doping" (7 pages)
- b. Schnabele, Verena. 2013. "The Useful Body: The Yogic Answer to Appearance Management in the Post-Fordist Workplace" (17 pages)

Additional materials:

- Hargreaves, John. 1987. "The Body, Sport and Power Relations" (16 pages)
- Todd, Jan. 2003. "The Strength Builders: A History of Barbells, Dumbbells, and Indian Clubs" (15 pages)
- Strauss, Sarah. 2002. "'Adapt, Adjust, Accommodate': The Production of Yoga in a Transnational World, History and Anthropology" (19 pages)
- Alter, Joseph S. 2009. "Yoga in Asia—Mimetic History: Problems in the Location of Secret Knowledge"
- Lin, Kwan Ting Maggie. 2009. "Introduction" in *Yoga in Hong Kong: Globalization, Localization, and the Fetishism of the Body*" (p.122-141)
- Pylypa, Jen. 1998. "Power and Bodily Practice," *Arizona Anthropologist* (15 pages)

Week 8: Sports and the Body (II) Violence, Risk, Pain (10/03/2022)

Required Readings:

- OR** Collins, Randall. 2010. "On-Field Player Violence" (23 pages)
- OR** George, Molly. 2005. "Making Sense of Muscle: The Body Experiences of Collegiate Women Athletes" (24 pages)
- Su, Xinqi. 2019. Hong Kong's youngsters more glued to their screens than 2 years ago and their physical fitness is alarmingly low, study finds" (News article)

Additional materials:

- Foster, Drew. 2015. "Fighters that don't Fight: The Case of Aikido and Somatic Metaphorism"
- Downey, Greg. 2010. "Throwing Like a Brazilian: On Ineptness and a Skill-Shaped Body" (23 pages)
- Palmer, Catherine. 2002. "'Shit Happens': The Selling of Risk in Extreme Sport" (13 pages)
- Wacquart, Loïc. 2001. "Whores, Slaves and Stallions: Languages of Exploitation and Accommodation among Boxers"
- Kath. Woodward. 2009. "Embodied Sporting Practices; Regulating and Regulatory Bodies" (uploaded sections)
- Messner, Michael A. 2003. "When Bodies Are Weapons: Masculinity and Violence in Sport" (15 pages)

Week 9: Sports, Social Class, Race and Ethnicity (17/03/2022)

Required Readings:

- Foley, Douglas E. 1990. "The Great American Football Ritual: Reproducing Race, Class, and Gender Inequality" (23 pages)
- OR** Leite-Lopes, J.S. 2000. "Class, Ethnicity, and Color in the Making of Brazilian Football" (27 pages)

Additional materials:

- Hartmann, Douglas. 2000. "Rethinking the Relationships Between Sport and Race in American Culture: Golden Ghettos and Contested Terrain"
- Hallinan, Chris, Barry Judd. 2007. "'Blackfellas' Basketball: Aboriginal Identity and Anglo-Austrian Race Relations in Regional Basketball"
- Kottak, Conrad. 1995. "Swimming in Cross-Cultural Currents"
- Hoberman, John. 2000. "The Price of 'Black Dominance'"
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1978. "Sport and Social Class"
- MacClancy, Jeremy. 1996. "Sport, Identity and Ethnicity"
- Lin, Kwan Ting Maggie. 2009. "Introduction" in *Yoga in Hong Kong: Globalization, Localization, and the Fetishism of the Body*" (p.143-177)

Short Reflective Paper due by 19/03/2022, 6pm. TBC

Please submit a soft copy at anthropologyofmovement_at_gmail.com with your VeriGuide receipt as detailed above.

Week 10: Case Studies: Calcio Storico, Sepak Takraw, Kabaddi, "Movement" (24/03/2022)

(Guest: **TBC** Simone Favretto, Roman Harpastum and Calcio Storico Fiorentino player)

Required Readings:

- Alter, Joseph S. 2000. "Kabaddi, a National Sport of India: The Internationalism of Nationalism and the Foreignness of Indianness" (25 pages)
- Hingun, Yasmin. 2019. "Movement culture: used by UFC McGregor, fitness trend can help no matter how unfit you are" (news)

Additional materials:

- Wood, Kelli. 2017. "Balls on Walls, Feet on Streets: Subversive Play in Grand Ducal Florence." *Renaissance Studies* 32(3) 365-87.
- Brown, Colin. 2006. "Sport, modernity and nation building: The Indonesian National Games of 1951 and 1953" (22 pages)

Week 11: Sports, National Identity, Nationalism and Politics (31/03/2022)

Required Readings:

- OR** Markovits, Andrei, and Steven Hellerman. 2010. "Offside: Soccer and American Exceptionalism" (12 p.)
- OR** Dorđević, Ivan, and Bojan Žikić. 2016. "Normalizing Political Relations through Football: The Case of Croatia and Serbia (1990–2013)" (14 p.)
- Besnier, Niko, and Susan Brownell. 2016. "Your Olympic Team May Be an Illusion"
- Phippen Weston. 2016. "The Olympics Have Always Been Political"

Additional materials:

- Xu, Guoqi. 2008. Chapter 5: "The Sport of Ping-Pong Diplomacy"
- Rossol, Nadine. 2010. "The death of the spectacle in the mid-1930s" (uploaded Chapter 6)
- Majumdar, Boria, and Sean Brown. 2008. "Why Baseball, Why Cricket? Differing Nationalisms, Differing Challenges"
- Sonntag, Albrecht. 2015. "Up to the Expectations? Perceptions of Ethnic Diversity in the French and German National Team"
- Hodges, Andrew, and Paul Stubbs. 2016. "The Paradoxes of Politicization: Fan Initiatives in Zagreb, Croatia"
- Markovits, Andrei S. 1990. "The Other 'American Exceptionalism': Why Is There No Soccer in the United States?"
- Barmé, Geremie R. 2009. "China's Flat Earth: History and 8 August 2008"

Reading Week + Qingming (01-09/04/2022)

CUHK's Reading Week: no class/tutorial. Take advantage of this to catch up with your readings and explore some of the additional materials that later you may want to use for your final paper! If you have any specific interest that is not covered by these materials, let me know earlier on and we can check together.

Week 12: Sports and Globalization (through Colonialism and Imperialism) (14/04/2022)

Required Readings:

- Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. "Playing with Modernity: The Decolonization of Indian Cricket" (24 pages)
- Miller, James A. et al. 2013. "College Football's Most Dominant Player? It's ESPN" (magazine article)
- Klein, Alan M. 2006. "Growing the Game: The Globalization of Major League Baseball" (7 pages)

Additional materials:

- Morris, Andrew D. 2004. "Baseball, History, the Local and the Global in Taiwan" (28 pages)
- Morris, Andrew D. 2002. "I Believe You Can Fly": Basketball Culture in Post-socialist China" (24 pages)
- Besnier, Niko. 2012. "The Athlete's Body and the Global Condition: Tongan Rugby Players in Japan"
- McKay, Alex. 2001. "'Kicking the Buddha's Head': India, Tibet and Footballing Colonialism"
- Dimeo, Paul. 2002. "Colonial Bodies, Colonial Sport: 'Martial' Punjabis, 'Effeminate' Bengalis and the Development of Indian Football"
- Brick, Carlton. 2004. "Misers, Merchandise and Manchester United: The peculiar paradox of the political economy of consumption"

Week 13: Imagining the Future of Sports / Sports and the City (21/04/2022)

Required readings:

- Miah, Andy. 2010. "The DREAM Gene for the Post-human Athlete: Reducing Exercise-Induced Pain Sensations Using Gene Transfer" (13 pages)
- Witkowski, E. 2012. "On the Digital Playing Field: How We 'Do Sport' With Networked Computer Games" (21 pages)
- Fogel, Brian. 2017. "Icarus" (documentary; selected excerpts uploaded)

Additional materials:

- Taylor, T. L. 2012. "Raising the Stakes: E-Sports and the Professionalization of Computer Gaming"
- Szablewicz, M. 2016. "A Realm of Mere Representation? 'Live' E-Sports Spectacles and the Crafting of China's Digital Gaming Image"
- Aleksandrov, E. A. (2009). "Parkour: The Art of Movement"
- Fredericksen, E. 2002. "Architecture that Shreds" (on skateboarding parks)
- Andrews, Lori. 2016. "Genetics: Coitus defunctus" Review of Henry Greely's "The End of Sex and the Future of Human Reproduction," *Nature*. At: <https://www.nature.com/articles/532035a>

Final Ethnographic Paper due by 04/05/2022, 6pm. TBC

Please submit a soft copy at anthropologyofmovement_at_gmail.com with VeriGuide receipt, as detailed above.

Appendix - Manuals list

I prepared this list and requested a few new manuals from our librarians, and now CUHK libraries have all the best resources in the field. The most recent books are all available in e-copy. I added them as from previous teaching evaluations I understood that some students would like to consult a textbook (students missing lectures, preparing their papers, or simply wanting to know more about a specific topic), but I restate that no manual is required for this course; you will find all the book chapters, newspapers, and other articles uploaded on Blackboard.

- Coakley, Jay J. 2021. "Sports in society : issues and controversies", Thirteenth edition, New York: McGraw-Hill Education. (Online access for CUHK students, and there are four copies of this book in different CUHK libraries; I reserved a copy at University Library).
- Eitzen, Stanley D. 2009. "Sport in contemporary society: An anthology" 8th Edition. (Online access for CUHK students, and there are five copies of this book at CC Library)
- Besnier, Niko, Susan Brownell, Thomas F. Carter. 2018. "The Anthropology of Sport: Bodies, Borders, Biopolitics". Oakland, California : University of California Press (Online access for CUHK students).
- Sands, Robert, and Linda Sands, eds. 2010. "Anthropology of Sport and Human Movement", Lanham: Lexington Books (Online access for CUHK students; one version available at CC Library).
- Horne, John. 2013. "Understanding Sport: A Socio-cultural Analysis", New York : Routledge (Online access for CUHK students; one version available at CC Library).
- Horne, John, David Jary, Alan Tomlinson. 1987. "Sport, leisure, and social relations", London: Routledge. (One copy at UL).
- Wagg, Stephen. 2009. "Key concepts in sports studies". Los Angeles: SAGE. (Online access for CUHK students, and one copy of this book at CC Library)
- Sugden, John and Alan Tomlinson, Eds. 2013 . "Power games: a critical sociology of sport", London: Routledge. (Online access for CUHK students, and one copy of this book at CC Library)
- Giulianotti, Richard, Ed. 2015. "Routledge Handbook of the Sociology of Sport", New York: Routledge. (Online access for CUHK students)
- Hargreaves, Jennifer, Eric Anderson. 2014. "Routledge Handbook of Sport, Gender and Sexuality", London: Routledge. (Online access for CUHK students)
- Aitchinson, Cara Carmichael. 2006. Sport & Gender Identities: Masculinities, Femininities, and Sexualities. Routledge: New York. (Online access for CUHK students, and one copy of this book at CC Library)
- Hoberman, Waddington, Møller. 2015. "Routledge Handbook of Drugs and Sport", London: Routledge. (Online access for CUHK students)

These are more dated manuals, but I list them here because they are among the pioneers in the field, with plenty of useful information:

- Dyck, Noel, Ed. 2000. "Games, sports and cultures", Oxford: Berg (One version available at CC Library).
- Sands, Robert, and Linda Sands, eds. 1999. "Anthropology, sport, and culture", Westport: Bergin & Garvey (Two copies available at CC Library).

- Blanchard, Kendall. 1995. "The anthropology of sport: an introduction", Westport: Bergin & Garvey (Two version available at University Library).
- Coackley, Jay and Eric Dunning. 2000. "Handbook of sport studies", London: SAGE.
- Dunning, Eric. 1999. "Sport matters: sociological studies of sport, violence, and civilization". London: Routledge. (Online access for CUHK students, and one copy of this book at CC Library)
- Dunning, Eric, and Dominic Malcolm, Ed. 2003. "Sport". London: Routledge (Four versions at CC)