



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Argentina Program, Summer 2025

Sociology 324: Sociology of Sports (with special emphasis on Latin America)

dlInstructor: Dr. James Kanan

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: The general pretext of this course is to have fun with one of the most visible institutions in global society (sports). We will try to gain a better understanding of sport by studying it scientifically and in an international context. A primary focus will be the application of sociological concepts, theories, and ideas, with a particular focus on the ways that sport is managed, governed and organized across the Latin American region, with a critical and analytical eye and a particular focus on Argentina. In many respects, sport provides great analogies to other life conditions and experiences, so a systematic understanding of the concepts and structures that are the infrastructure of sport should position you to be able to understand more thoroughly many of the features of society. In other words, we hope to gain a sense of how the institution of sports is increasingly influencing society and being influenced by it.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	How students will practice each outcome:	How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed:
1. Develop and demonstrate a working knowledge of sport as a social phenomenon and to be able to view it through an analytical lens.	Readings & Class Discussion	Short Essays
2. Recognize the role of public institutions in Latin American sports and the relationship between sports policy and political regimes.	Readings/Class Discussion	Short Essays
3. Evaluate how sports is managed, governed, and organized across the Latin American region using management, policy, sociology, and history as pretext.	Readings/Class Discussion	Short Essays/Independent Research & Presentation

4. Major Topics covered in the Course: Governments and sports policy, Sport as a tool for economic development, Latin American women in sports, Sport policy and political regimes, Fútbol in Argentina, Impacts and legacies of major sports events, Sports and human development and peace

5. Required Readings and Materials:

- Bravo, Lopez de D'Amico, & Parrish. 2016. *Sport in Latin America: Policy, Organization, and Management*. Routledge Press. <https://www.routledge.com/Sport-in-Latin-America-Policy-Organization-Management/Bravo-LopezdeDAmico-Parrish/p/book/9781138308671>
- Google Classroom: Additional readings in .pdf format will be available through the Google Classroom site. The syllabus will also be found there.
- A generative AI account with ChatGPT (preferable), or other generative AI tools (Google Gemini, Perplexity, Microsoft Copilot, Claude, or Perplexity) will be very helpful. Free versions are fine.

7. Graded Assignments: Grades for the course will be calculated based on your work on the following items:

- **Participation (20%)** – You will be graded here on your active engagement with our guest speakers and tours and during class. Students are expected to attend every class and participate in all out-of-class activities as directed by the instructor/program director. KIS requires that any unexcused absence results in a grade reduction. Your

course letter grade will be deducted one full letter grade for any unexcused absence. Students with two or more unexcused absences may be expelled from the program.

- **Independent Research/Final Presentation (40%)** – Students will research a specific contemporary topic related to sports in Latin America. You can profile an individual, a group, or an issue within sports, with particular focus on Latin America (bonus if you are able to work Argentina into it). You will write a five-page essay (20%) and present your research to the class during our last meeting. You will be expected to reference academic and non-academic articles, books, and websites as your source material. Additional credit will be given if you are able to take advantage of on-site locations and contacts (e.g., guest speakers, etc.) for information about your topic. Use of generative AI will be helpful, but **MUST** include adequate attribution (see below)
- **Reflective Essays (40%)** – You will submit a short essay (250 – 500 words) describing “what you learned” from class materials, readings, or excursions (places we visit). Some essay topics will be assigned by instructor, while others will simply invite a “what I learned” response.

All course assignments must be completed in order to receive at least a passing grade in the course. No extra credit will be offered for the course. Work will be graded on the following scale:

90 – 100% = A 80 – 89% = B 70 – 79% = C 60 – 69% = D Below 60% = F

This course will be graded on this basis, without regard to other scales (i.e., plus-and-minus) which may apply at your college or university. Note KIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.)

8. Generative AI Policy:

Generative AI is permitted/encouraged in some ways, with proper attribution, but prohibited in other ways.

Use of Generative AI technology: In general, I expect that the work you submit in this class will be your own, original work, and that you will use generative AI tools, such as (*ChatGPT*), to enhance your learning experience. In other words, generative AI can be helpful in expanding ideas, providing additional information, and exploring potential resources. The writing and words should be YOURS, but you can employ AI to help organize your thoughts. When employed in the writing assignment, you **MUST** describe how you used AI and it **MUST** be cited. Again, Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as (*ChatGPT*) may be used on a limited basis for (*brainstorming or gathering ideas*) with appropriate citation, but not for the origination of the writing text of this paper. If you are unsure if you are using AI tools appropriately in this course, I encourage you to visit with me. Examples of how to cite AI tools are available at <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>.

Students are permitted and encouraged to use generative AI in the following ways:

- **Brainstorming:** You may use generative AI to stimulate creativity, generate ideas, or brainstorm topics for papers, presentations, and discussions. The generated content must serve as a steppingstone, not a final product.

- **Citation Assistance:** AI tools can be used to manage, format, and organize citations and references, promoting adherence to academic writing standards and specific style guides required for individual assignments.
- **Grammar and Style Checking:** AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors.
- **Concept Understanding:** Generative AI can be used to explain or simulate concepts taught in class, aiding in a deeper understanding.
- **Research Assistance:** AI can be used to conduct initial research, compile data, and summarize articles, books, or papers. It should not replace traditional research methods but rather enhance them.

You may NOT use generative AI in coursework in the following ways:

- **Plagiarism:** Using AI-generated content as your original work without attribution. This includes essays, papers, presentations, and exam answers.
- **Data Manipulation:** Using AI tools to alter data or create misleading information.
- **Misrepresentation of Skills:** Using generative AI to complete tasks that are meant to assess your knowledge and skills.
- **Confidentiality Breach:** Using AI tools that might violate KIIS/university policies or laws related to data privacy and confidentiality.

9. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

10. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability

accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

11. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

12. Tentative Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS Google Classroom (GC)
Class 1	Syllabus/Introduction	Bravo, et.al., Chapter 1
Class 2	Sports in Developing Countries	Keech. <i>Sport Policy as a Tool for Developing Countries</i> , Chapter 2. Alabarces. <i>Populism and sports in Latin America</i> . (GC)

Class 3	Women in Sports	Lopez de D'Amico. <i>Latin American Women and Leadership in Sports</i> . Chapter 4.
Class 4	Sports & Policy	Yoder. <i>Sport Policy and Political Regimes in Latin America</i> . Chapter 5.
Class 5	Sports & Policy Cont'd	Pye & Pettavino. <i>Sport Policy in Cuba</i> . Chapter 7.
Class 6	Sports & Human Development	Molina & Tebaras. <i>Sport for Human Development, Coexistenc, and Peace</i> . Chapter 8.
Class 7	Sports & Governance	Carter. <i>Labor Migration, International Politics, & Governance of Latin American Sports</i> . Chapter 10.
Class 8	The Business of Fútbol in Argentina	Frydenberg, Dezotti, & Carrano. <i>Football in Argentina and its Institutions, 1980-2014: Changes and Traditions</i> . Chapter 16
Class 9	Business & Fútbol in Argentina (Cont'd)	Parrish, Lee, & Kim. <i>Business Development Strategies among Football Clubs in Argentina</i> . Chapter 19
Class 10	The Business of Fútbol in Chile	Soria & Maldonado. <i>The Long and Winding Road of the Football Industry in Chile</i> . Chapter 18
Class 11	Sports & Mega-Events	Silva Bórquez & Gonzalez Mesina. <i>Multisport Games in South America</i> . Chapter 13. Begin own research for paper/presentation.
Class 12	Sports & Mega-Events (Cont'd)	Hofman-Mourão & Rocha. <i>Impact of 2016 Olympics on Rio de Janeiro</i> . Chapter 14. Continue research and development for paper/presentation.
Class 13	Final Presentations	None