

SOCI OLOGY 647

HOMEWORK #4 - due July 11

Name _____

Please answer each of the following four questions.

1. Chapter 9 in your text discusses the topic of sport and politics. Under the heading "The political uses of sport" there are five subheadings:

Sport as a vehicle of change in society. Sport as a propaganda vehicle.
The exploitation of sport by politicians. Sport and nationalism.
Sport as an opiate of the masses.

Please pick two of these topics and in a few sentences state the major point(s) made in it; give examples. Don't use the same example for both topics, even though some examples could quite legitimately be discussed under more than one topic. (4 points)

2. In Chapter 8, your text discusses how sport uses religion and how religion uses sport. Take one example of each and discuss it. (3)
3. What does the term "stacking" refer to? Give examples in both football and baseball. How may stacking contribute to the low representation of minorities in coaching and "front office" positions in the NFL and MLB? (3)
4. Financial issues in professional and Olympic sports are addressed in chapters 25, 26, and 28 of your readings book. Choose two of these chapters and present the main points that they make. Do you see any common threads in these two chapters? (4 points)
5. On the Holocaust Museum Website, www.ushmm.org, (click "on-line exhibits" and scroll down) there is a great deal of very interesting information about the 1936 Olympics, held in Nazi Germany. I urge you to browse the entire site. As an inducement, here is a one point question. (1)
What were the names of the two Jewish sprinters who were unexpectedly removed from the U.S. 4 X 100 relay team?

Extra Credit: (9 total points)

6. Go to the other page that covers the Nazi Olympics:
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/olympics.html>
and answer this one point question. In what sport were all three medalists Jewish? (1)
7. Baseball was the first of the three major professional sports in the U.S. to be desegregated but now has the lowest percentage of African-American players; basketball has the most. What is a possible sociological explanation for this? (2)
8. In her chapter, "Changing the game," (assigned for July 11) Pat Griffin says that there are six ways in which homophobia is manifested in women's sport. Choose two of these and describe what she says about it. Do you think this is still true today? (She published the chapter in 1992.) (3)
9. In the chapter in your text on economics, the authors state that the public subsidizes professional team franchises in two ways. What are they? Please give examples. (2)
10. What is the "reserve clause" in baseball, who is the individual most associated with its demise, and what was the impact of getting rid of it on him and on the economics of baseball? (1 point)