

OLLI at DU Central Syllabus –Fall 2024

Issues in American Sports - Subject Area Public Affairs/Current Events

Wednesday Mornings In-Person (Chambers Center, DU Campus); Six weeks

Instructor: Kent Epperson

1. **SUMMARIZE YOUR COURSE**

This is a current events class because the emphasis will be on discussion of issues related to sports at each level. Each week will explore a different sports question. Articles related to each week's topic will be provided in advance. Videos, charts and slides relating to each week's topic will be designed to foster discussion. Each week issues and concerns about the given topic will be paired with positive features and projections of how the topic can evolve. I believe that my background as an educator and OLLI facilitator will help promote a discussion honoring the full range of viewpoints.

2. **BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE ORGANIZED BY CLASS SESSION:**

Week One: How are issues in American sports the same or different than international sports?

Topics: Popular sports in US v World, Olympics as a unifying event, sports link to education institutions.

Week Two: Do youth and high school sports serve an important role?

Topics: Participation rates, competitive v recreational sport, sports safety, college recruiting, parent influence

Week Three: What do changes in college sports portend for the future?

Topics: NIL, transfer portal, grad rates, international players, effects of big money, league re-alignment

Week Four: Can women's sports reach parity with men's sports?

Topics: Title IX, surging interest, money gap in pro sports, transgendered athletes

Week Five: How do pro sports impact the social and economic face of the nation?

Topics: Fan loyalty and behavior, salaries, "sports washing" (LIV and PGA), public financing, ownership

Week Six: What are the impacts of sports betting and the culture of athletes?

Topics: Sports Betting (college and pro), hero worship, pros and politics