Unit 1 study guide for the sociology of sport

Note: This is a study guide. Do not rely on it alone, it is merely a tool to help you. You should do the following before answering each question below:
• Go to the class homepage and click on the link “how to study for Sociology of Sport”. Read the information carefully…
• Be sure you are able to identify and define all the terms in bold in the readings.

Chapter 1

1. What is the sociology of sport?
2. What is the difference between the sociology of sport and the psychology of sport?
3. What are some of the controversies created by the sociology of sport?
4. What are some of the reasons as to why we should study sports as social phenomena?
5. What is the current status of the sociology of sport?
6. What are sports, and how are they related to similar activities such as “play/leisure” and “dramatic spectacle.”
7. What is the difference between the “definitional” and the “alternative” approach to studying sport? In which circumstances should each be used? Generally speaking, which approach do you like best? Why?
8. Compare and contrast the “scientific expert” the “critical transformation” and the “knowledge-building” models for studying sport.

Chapter 2

1. What are theories and why, according to the text and lecturer, should we need them?
2. What are the six major theories mentioned in your text that have been used to study sport?
3. Compare and contrast these six theories, particularly in relation to the items in the table on page 50
4. Are sports a reflection of society or are they more? Explain.
5. Is there a best theoretical approach to use when studying sports? Why or why not? How should one chose a theory to use?

Chapter 4

1. What is socialization?
2. Identify some key agents of socialization (e.g. family) and explain how they socialize individuals.
3. What are “significant others” and what role do they play in the socialization process?
4. Contrast the internalization with the interactionist model of socialization.
5. Explain George Herbert Mead’s theory of the development of the self (be sure to include all three stages)
6. Identify and explain all the stages in Charles Cooley’s theory of the looking glass self. Why is the emphasis on subjective, not objective reality?
7. Using the six theories covered in chapter two; explain which would use the interactionist and which would use the internalization model of socialization.

8. Know the details of the three examples provided for “becoming involved and staying involved in sports” along with their importance.

9. Know the details of the three examples provided for “changing or ending sport participation” along with their importance.

10. Do you think that sports build character? Why or why not? What has the research shown?

11. Contrast the power and performance model with the pleasure and participation model of sport. Which one seems dominant today and why?

12. Know the details of the three examples provided for “Real-life experiences: Sport stories from athletes” along with their importance.

13. Know the details of the five examples provided for “changing social worlds: living in sports” along with their importance.

14. What is ideology and hegemony and why are sociologists of sport interested in the terms? How are the terms related?

15. Why is the social thought of Antonio Gramsci of interest to sociologists of sport? What can it tell us about large corporations such as Coca-Cola and General Motors that sponsor sporting events?

Chapter 6

1. Provide a definition of deviance and contrast this definition with one for crime.

2. Many have argued that too much money and greed and too little discipline and self control has led to the erosion of the purity of sport. Using information from lecture and your text, would you agree or disagree? Why?

3. According to Coakley, there are three reasons why studying deviance in sports presents problems. Identify and explain each of these.

4. Describe how a functionalist would view deviance in sport. What are some of the problems with this view?

5. Describe how a conflict theorist would view deviance in sport. What are some of the problems with this view?

6. Describe how an interactionist would view deviance in sport. What are some of the problems with this view?

7. Contrast “overconformity” with “underconformity”. Which, according to Coakley, is more troublesome in “power and performance” sports? Why?

8. What is the “sport ethic” as defined by Coakley and what four norms contribute to this ethic?

9. Why do athletes engage in deviant overconformity and what are two characteristics (as described in lecture and your text) that overconformers share?

10. What is a “social world” and what role does it play in the relationship between deviant overconformity and group dynamics?

11. Discuss the rates of delinquency, academic cheating, alcohol use, and felony rates for athletes compared to non-athletes. What factors contribute to these problems with regards to athletes?

12. Can sport participation be a cure for deviant behavior? If so, under what circumstances?

13. Explain the link between performance-enhancing substances and deviant overconformity in sports.
14. What recommendations were given by Coakley for controlling substance use in sport? Which ones do you think will work? Why?

Chapter 7
1. Compare and contrast “violence,” “aggression,” and “intimidation.”
2. Identify and describe the four types of violence identified by Mike Smith in your text.
3. What types of violence are widely accepted by athletes in contract sports? Why are they accepted?
4. How is deviant overconformity related to violence in sports?
5. What does the research covered in Coakley tell us about how women athletes deal with brutal body contact?
6. Why are some rates of violence higher in men’s sports than in women’s sports?
7. How are gender and race connected with violence in sports?
8. Does the violence learned and used in sports carry over to non-sport settings?
9. Contrast the idea of “control” vs. “carryover” as mentioned in your text.
10. What factors are related to male violence against women?
11. Under what conditions might sport participation inspire the control of aggression?
12. How have rates of athlete and spectator violence varied through history?
13. What factors are related to spectator violence and what strategies might be used to effectively control it?