1. Professor
   
   George Bizer, Ph.D.
   Office location: Bailey Hall 301B
   Phone number: 388-6228
   Email address: bizerg@union.edu
   Website: www.GeorgeBizer.com
   Office hours: Mondays, 9a – 11a; Thursdays 11a – 12n

2. Objectives
   
   There are several objectives of this course. First, students will gain an understanding of the social psychology of sports from three directions: the athlete, the fan, and the marketer. Second, through exposure to primary articles, students will further develop the ability to read research, understand research, and think about research like psychologists. Third, students will develop their speaking, writing, and research skills by developing and presenting their own empirically testable hypothesis related to the psychology of sports.

3. Your Responsibilities
   
   1. Discussion Topics. By 5pm the night prior to each class, please submit three topics to me via email at profbizer@gmail.com. Please present one of each (A, B, and C). Your submission for “A” and “B” should each be about a different article; your submission for “C” should be about the topic generally.
      
      A. Critique: Present a criticism of the article or one of the studies within the article.
      
      B. New Variable: Present a new variable – either independent, subject, or dependent – that you think would have been interesting to include in one of the paper’s studies. Predict would have resulted had the variable been included.
      
      C. Big Question: Be broad, be big. Present a thoughtful, conceptual question about the topic in general that encompasses both papers rather than about any particular study or paper in particular. When possible, it’s a good idea to relate the readings to other topics discussed in class – or any other topic from any other class, for that matter.

   2. Class Participation. Your participation is essential for a successful seminar. Volunteer questions, ideas, criticisms, arguments, and insight of all kinds.

   3. Your Article. Each student will choose two articles from those marked with a ★. You will give a three- to five-minute presentation to summarize the article. You’ll then “role-play” with me as lead author of that article.

   4. Term Paper and Oral Presentation. Additional handouts will present relevant information.
4. Grading

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

Thought Topic Submissions 100pts
Class Participation (including ★ article) 100pts
Literature Review (First Submission) 25pts
Literature Review (Revision) 25pts
Complete Term Paper 150pts
Oral Presentation 100pts

Final course grades will be awarded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>460</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>A−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>440</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>B−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>390</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350</td>
<td>C−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;300</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Athlete</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Welcome!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Choking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Home-Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Sandbagging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fan</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>BIRGing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Bias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Marketer</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Advertising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Endorsements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Allegiance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>The Underdog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>The Flutie Effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/9</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Reading List articles available at idol.union.edu/bizerg/readings430

THE ATHLETE

September 12: Personality


September 14: Attribution


September 19: Choking


September 26: Home-Field Advantage


September 28: The Hot Hand


October 3: Sandbagging


October 5: Disordered Eating


THE FAN

October 10: Basking in Reflected Glory


October 12: Allegiance


October 17: Bias


October 19: The Underdog


The Marketer

October 24: Advertising


October 26: Sponsorship


October 31: Endorsements


November 2: The “Flutie Effect”


7. Important Policies

Absences. If you know that you will miss a class due to religious observances or athletic competition, please let me know no later than the week prior to the class to be missed.

Late Submissions. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned. Assignments submitted by email later in the calendar day will be subject to deduction equivalent to one letter grade. Assignments submitted the following calendar day are subject to a deduction equivalent to two letter grades; assignments submitted thereafter will not be accepted.

Disabilities. It is the policy of Union College to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete the course requirements, please make an appointment with me. All discussions will remain confidential.

Academic Dishonesty. Judicial action will be taken against any student engaging in dishonest behaviors. Dishonest behavior includes, but certainly is not limited to plagiarism on any assignment, collaboration with fellow students on any assignment, or dishonesty during examinations. Although discussion with your classmates about readings and independent assignments is encouraged, collaboration – working jointly toward the completion of an assignment – is not. Plagiarism in any form is grounds for an “F” in the course.

Schedule Changes. Although I intend to follow the Schedule, I reserve the right to make changes if necessary. Such changes, if any, will be clearly stated in class; it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of such changes by attending class.

WAC Requirement. Because this class fulfills a WAC requirement, failure to submit any draft of the paper constitutes a failure in the course.