ABOUT THE COURSE
This course will offer an exhaustive study in how the media has provided coverage of European and American athletic events with coverage of rugby and soccer. Research will consist of academic journal reviews and conducting personal in-depth interviews of media members and officials of these athletic events that can lead to graduate research.

OBJECTIVES
At the end of the course, one should be able to:
- Understand the history of European and American athletics events
- Conduct a stadium case study
- Understand how rugby has played a role in the larger culture
- Write academic reports on the historical and media coverage involving the relationship between rugby, and its culture and the media coverage of it

COURSE TEXTS:
Various academic articles submitted via email to the class from the professor

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
Be in class, be on time, and be prepared. As an undergraduate seminar course, I expect that you will be present for every class meeting. It’s critical that you are prepared for each class period. If you are not prepared for class, you are absent. If you are absent, you will lose 10% of your final grade for each day. Due to the nature of the class, the Professor is unable to loan out any tapes of the broadcast material if you are absent.

Be connected. You should be checking your Angelo State University email on a daily basis. You are responsible for any material sent via email. This means that if you know you are experiencing e-mail problems, you should ask someone in class if she or he might let you in on any e-mail correspondence pertaining to class.

Be respectful. In order to provide class members the opportunity to do their best work, and to provide a relatively comfortable environment for giving presentations and learning, students need to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times.
ASSIGNMENTS

Report on an American Rugby event – 100 points
You will be assigned to provide a short 3-4 page research paper on an actual Rugby event. These papers are designed to develop your research project throughout the semester. You are asked to share your paper contents with other classmates during class meetings. Your short paper assignments include, not limited to, topic paper, research design analysis paper, research rationale, annotated bibliography, literature review, definitions (conceptual/operational), research question(s), data collection method(s), research proposal, and future development. All assignments must be completed by their due dates or you will fail the entire course.

Report on one American and European rugby promotion 200 points

The topics will be based upon the one’s area of research interest. For each presentation, please send to me your Power Point or presentation to me prior to the class setting. Your presentation should be 15 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of questions from the other students in the class. Your presentation will be critiqued by the other students in the class. You must come prepared to report on your seminar project.

Media and Athletic Journals WORTH 300 POINTS

Throughout the semester, you will keep a media journal and write a media journal for each interview and research article you have compiled over the course of the semester.

For each media journal, your written report should be brief 1-2 pages typewritten essay, summarizing your reaction to each film viewed in class. You can submit your entries in a binded journal such as in a large white packet. You will be critiquing each weekly showing from an academic perspective. Please apply relevant examples and other supporting evidence in your review. Your journal should describe these elements.

ORGANIZATION:

Introduction: Briefly identify the film you reacting to, including title and other information. Discuss elements of the program that illustrate typical or unusual characteristics.

Reaction: Describe appropriate features of your sources. What is your reaction to such factors as:
1) The interview source
2) How well does your source tell the story? Is it Interesting? What are the high points?
3) Setting
4) Acting
5) Conflict
6) Symbolism-what are the symbols from the program
7) Ideology-politics or message
8) Realism-what is put into the arena, and or what is missing?
Final Paper – 400 points
At the end of the semester, you are to submit a 10 double-spaced page, formal, and data-driven historical/critical research paper. For this project, pick one element of media (newspapers, radio, television and social media), and from there, discuss how that one medium covered American and European athletics.

FINAL COURSE GRADES
All of the course assignments add up to 1,000 points. Final grades will be calculated using the following pointscale.

Total Points
900-1000 A | 800-899 B | 700-799 C | 600-699 D | 599 and below F
OTHER INFORMATION

Academic Integrity
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Plagiarism in this course will result in automatic failure (F) for the entire course.

Americans with Disabilities Act
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Campus Closures
If the University is officially closed when we are scheduled to meet, then we obviously will not be meeting. If that happens, plan on picking up where we left off before the closure the next class meeting.

Religious Observances
A student wishing to observe a religious holy day must notify me via email at least 14 days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.