

2022-2023



# Welcome to Sports in American Society

Introduction to the class





# Agenda

**01**

**Course  
Overview**

**02**

**Class  
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**Class  
Resources &  
Expectations**

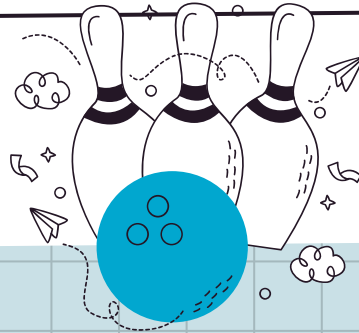
**04**

**What qualifies  
as a sport?**

01

# Course Overview

Welcome to Sport!

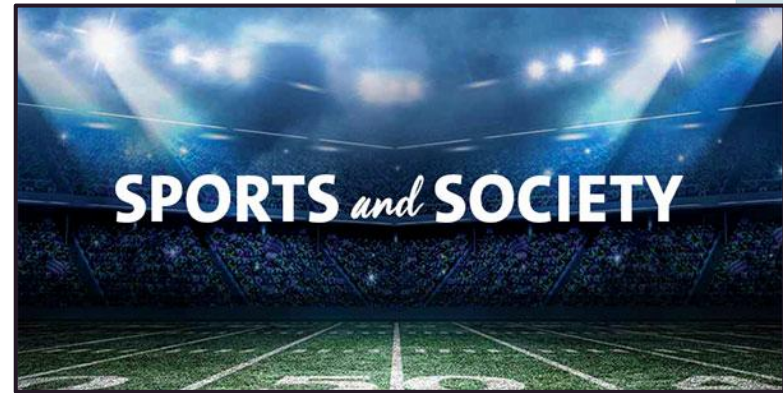


# Welcome to Sport in American Society!

Excited as you may be to be taking a history course on sports, let's talk a bit about what this class is and what it isn't.

First off, it is NOT going to be talking about last night's game, rattling off sports stats or talking about our fantasy league teams for 60 minutes a day.

Instead, we're going to be talking about sports and why they matter to us. It is undeniable to say that athletics have become intertwined with almost every facet of American life & culture. Sports permeate so many aspects of our society today - from the news to daily conversations to the celebrities we follow and even the clothes we wear; sports are integral to so many aspects of our society.

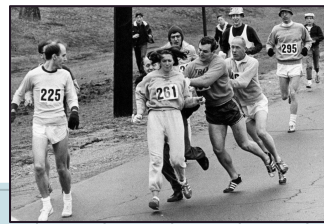


# The value in studying sports...

One of the major underpinnings of this course is the assertion that a study of sports is valuable for more than just entertainment. Yes, sports can be fun to watch & talk about.

Sports are ALSO a reflection & transmitter of social norms, values, conflicts & progress in American history. Most major social, political & economic issues are reflected in sports.

Consider some of the biggest issues in American sports today: whether it's a debate about the validity of esports or the question of whether college athletes should be paid, issues regarding gender inequality, the debate over team mascots, or the question about whether athletes should be allowed engage in political protest, each of these issues is about more than just sports. Each of these topics can be broken down and explored more deeply.



# Over the course of the year, we'll cover topics like...

- ★ The roots & psychology of fandom
- ★ The current debate over trans athletes taking place in many states
- ★ Mascots
- ★ Sports gambling
- ★ Evolution of sports & leagues
- ★ Boston's complex sports history through the lens of race
- ★ The ongoing debate over payment of college athletes
- ★ Women in sports
- ★ The many ways sports are marketed, branded & sold
- ★ Activist athletes



All of these topics can't be divorced from the history & events happening in that time so you will need to draw on your knowledge of the various decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (no worries though, we'll review the relevant details at the start of each unit!)

# My goals for you:

To build critical thinking, writing, research & organizational skills.

To give you a space to learn more about US history & culture through the lens of sport.

Specifically, the questions we'll be exploring this year are:

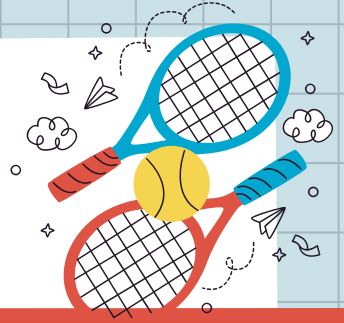
- ★ What can we learn about America through American sports?
- ★ How are sports a reflection of society, including its values & conflicts?



02

# Class Technology

Resources





# Google Classroom

## Block 3

Class code to join is:



# Google Classroom set up

Shen - Sport in Society  
Block 6

Announce something to your class...

Start a conversation with your class

## Stream: Announcements

Stream Classwork People

**Classwork:**  
Organized by unit,  
class website pinned  
at the top

Shen - Sport in Society

## Class Resources

Link to website (class notes, slideshows, etc.)  
Posted Aug 12, 8:26 PM

### U1: Intro to Sports

Students can only see topics with published posts

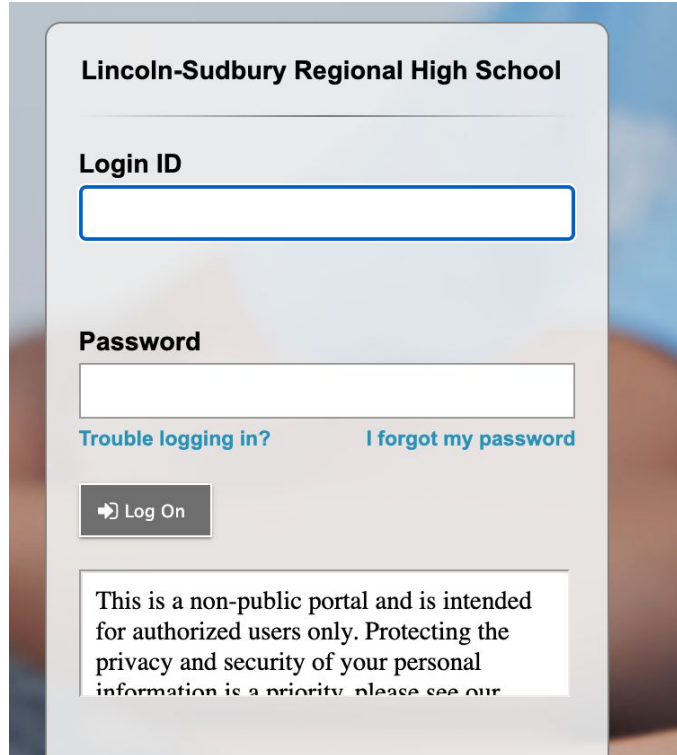
### U2: Fandom

Students can only see topics with published posts

### U3: Mascots

Students can only see topics with published posts

# Aspen



Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Login ID

Password

[Trouble logging in?](#) [I forgot my password](#)

This is a non-public portal and is intended for authorized users only. Protecting the privacy and security of your personal information is a priority. please see our

## Aspen use:

- ★ Aspen is open so you can keep track of your grade, see what's coming up, what work is done & what may be missing.
- ★ Please let me know if you see anything that doesn't line up with what you think you've handed in.

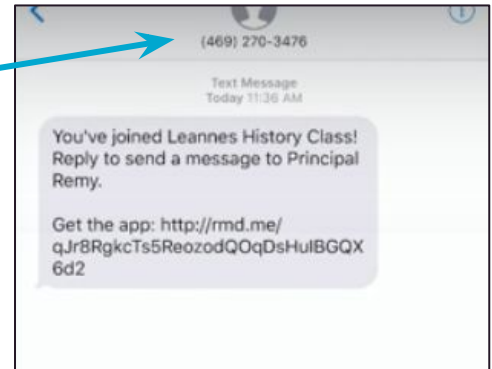
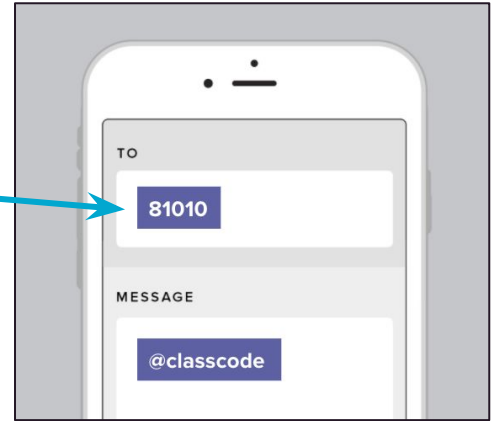
# Remind (texting)

- ★ Remind is a texting app that's geared for educational use. Each class has its own texting group, which allows you to text me when you have questions



# Remind (texting)

1. To join, text your class code to Block 3's code to join is: @b98kd66
2. Enter your full name (when prompted)
3. Open the text you get and click on info and save the # to your contacts as "history" or "Ms. Shen" so you have a quick way to find it when you have a question.





# Class Resources & Expectations

03



# Class Resources

## Readings

There is no textbook for this class. Work will be drawn from online and print sources. If internet access is ever an issue, please talk to me and we'll figure it out.



## Assignments

- ★ All work will be turned in through Google Classroom.
- ★ The primary assessment tool in this class is projects. You should expect 2-3 projects each quarter.
- ★ Before each project or paper, there will be time devoted in class to review/prep.



# Class Resources

## Writing



We'll write a handful of short papers in the first semester.

These shorter writing assignments are designed to help you improve your writing skills in anticipation of writing a more in-depth research paper in quarters 2-3. The research paper will allow you to dig into a topic in American sports that interests you (more on that later!)

## Re-dos

The goal is for you to improve & master the skills and if it means it takes a do-over to get there, so be it.



Talk to Ms. Shen after you get your work back and we'll see if it makes sense. (This won't apply on every assignment.)



# Class Participation



- ★ Class is more productive & fun when you participate.
- ★ While day-to-day participation is NOT graded officially, this is the work that weighs into your grade should you be on the cusp at the end of the quarter.

# Classroom Expectations

## Respect

I expect you to be respectful to me and to one another. Be respectful of other people's opinions and be open-minded toward others' differences. MORE TO COME ON THIS...

Please try to be on time to class. "On time" means in your seat and ready to learn at the official start time of class give or take a minute.

## Timeliness

## Absences

If you're absent, check the syllabus/Google Classroom to find out what work you missed and to make plans to make up the work.

# Grading Policy

You'll be graded on a point system. At the end of the term, your total points are counted up and divided by the total number of possible points. (Each quarter's overall points will vary according to the type and number of assignments that are given.)

Here's a rough point value of various types of assignments:

**Projects/  
Debates  
10-50 pts**

**Essays  
100 pts**

**HW  
10 pts**

**Research  
paper  
200 pts**

# What can you expect in terms of routines?

- ★ All materials from a unit will be posted on Google Classroom (if you go to the “Classwork” tab, it’s organized by unit.)
- ★ All assignments will be submitted through Google Classroom.
- ★ You will have a bi-weekly syllabus with an overview for the week (with classwork & any homework) - this syllabus will be posted at the top of each unit in Classroom.

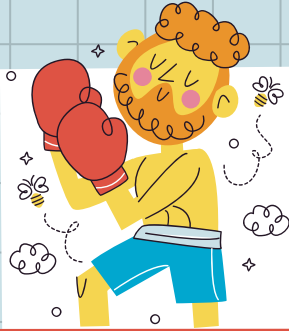
# Contact me

Email: [melisa\\_shen@lsrhs.net](mailto:melisa_shen@lsrhs.net)

Remind: text me!

Planning blocks: 1 & 7 (& block 4 second semester only)





# What qualifies as a sport?

Hmmm...

04

