**SPORTS AND THE MEDIA**

**MEJO 245, Section 1, Fall 2021**

**Carroll Hall 11**

**Tuesday 5:00-6:15 p.m.**

**Final Exam: 12/10 4 p.m.**

**Professor: Tim Crothers**

**E-mail:** [**Tcrothers@aol.com**](mailto:Tcrothers@aol.com)

**Phone: 919 824 4984**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

Tim Crothers (UNC class of ’86) worked at *Sports Illustrated* (1988-2001) as a senior writer. Prior to *SI*, he was a staff writer at *The Daily Tar Heel* (1984-86) and the *Durham Morning Herald* (1986-88). He is the author of *The Man Watching*, a biography of UNC women’s soccer coach Anson Dorrance, and co-author of *Hard Work*, an autobiography with UNC basketball coach Roy Williams. His third book, *The Queen of Katwe,* was optioned by Disney for a feature film released in 2016.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the complicated relationship between the media and the sports it covers. Each week we will feature a guest speaker--from coaches and athletes to media relations coordinators to print, on-line, radio and television reporters—sharing stories about what goes into producing the sports journalism that we read, listen to and watch on television. The list of speakers is organized over the course of the semester as their schedules become available. Students will be expected to question the speakers about their various responsibilities in the process and to write about what they learned each week as well as opinion columns on issues of sports journalism based on the discussions in class.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Students will be expected to quote guests accurately in their written work, so everyone is expected to record or take notes in class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students will be asked to submit a brief “What I Learned” essay after each class. Students will also be required to write two papers during the semester. The midterm paper will deal with a sports media topic of the student’s choice based on the discussions in class to that point. The final paper will be an opinion column on a topic to be announced. Grades will be determined through a composite of marks on the midterm paper (20%), the final column (20%), What I Learned (40%) and class participation (20%).

During the final exam period we will review our final papers and discuss what each of you learned in class.

Here’s a grid for grade expectations:

A: Submitting well-written and thoughtful work on time and proofread diligently. Displaying a level of creativity and effort that makes written work stand out clearly from the rest of the class. Participating significantly in our class Q&As so that your voice is among those that drives the conversation each week.

B: Submitting well-written and thoughtful work on time and proofread diligently. Displaying an effort to achieve a level of creativity that makes your written work stand out from the rest of the class. Regularly participating in our weekly Q&As.

C. Submitting well-written and thoughtful work on time. Displaying a level of creativity that suggests you are making your best effort. Participating in our weekly Q&As at a level that shows you are actively engaged.

D. Submitting well-written papers on time. Participating in our weekly Q&As.

**F** = 59% or below,

**D**= 60-66%,

**D+** = 67-69%,

**C-** = 70-72%,

**C** = 73-76%,

**C+** = 77-79%,

**B-** = 80-82%,

**B** = 83-86%,

**B+** = 87-89%,

**A-** = 90-92%,

**A** = 93-100%,

Because the success of the class depends primarily on how well you prepare for and question our guests, I will pay close attention to which students are enhancing the class discussions and who is just along for the ride, which explains the importance of class participation in your final grade.

**ATTENDANCE**

**University Policy:**

No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings, except for these University Approved Absences:

1. Authorized University activities
2. Disability/religious observance/pregnancy, as required by law and approved by [Accessibility Resources and Service](https://ars.unc.edu/) and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](https://eoc.unc.edu/what-we-do/accommodations/) (EOC)
3. Significant health condition and/or personal/family emergency as approved by the [Office of the Dean of Students](https://odos.unc.edu/), [Gender Violence Service Coordinators,](https://womenscenter.unc.edu/resources/gender-violence-services/) and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](https://eoc.unc.edu/what-we-do/accommodations/) (EOC).

**Class Policy**:

*Instructors may work with students to meet attendance needs that do not fall within University approved absences. For situations when an absence is not University approved (e.g., a job interview or club activity), instructors determine their own approach to missed classes and make-up assessments and assignments. Please provide your approach on the course syllabus.*

Please communicate with me early about potential absences. Please be aware that you are bound by the [Honor Code](http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/honor-code/) when making a request for a University approved absence.

*(source:*[*http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/*](http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/)*)*

**HONOR CODE:**  
I expect that each student will conduct himself or herself within the guidelines of the University honor system ([http://honor.unc.edu](https://outlook.unc.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=_PwXhu5wkEKfdEIVTpil9KJAr6RORM8IBwmgW7JyZPUuO4or7Dri_9D4gXEkBO0Z0IIreRKEjIQ.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fhonor.unc.edu)). All academic work should be done with the high levels of honesty and integrity that this University demands. You are expected to produce your own work in this class. If you have any questions about your responsibility or your instructor’s responsibility as a faculty member under the Honor Code, please see the course instructor or Senior Associate Dean C. A. Tuggle, or you may speak with a representative of the Student Attorney Office or the Office of the Dean of Students.

**Syllabus Changes**

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.

**ARS**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in barriers to fully accessing University courses, programs and activities.

Accommodations are determined through the Office of Accessibility Resources and Service (ARS) for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. See the ARS Website for contact information: [https://ars.unc.edu](https://ars.unc.edu/) or email [ars@unc.edu](mailto:ars@unc.edu).

(source: <https://ars.unc.edu/faculty-staff/syllabus-statement>)

**Counseling and Psychological Services**

CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu/> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more. 

***TITLE IX***

Any student who is impacted by discrimination, harassment, interpersonal (relationship) violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, or stalking is encouraged to seek resources on campus or in the community. Reports can be made online to the EOC at <https://eoc.unc.edu/report-an-incident/>. Please contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator (Elizabeth Hall, interim – [titleixcoordinator@unc.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@unc.edu)), Report and Response Coordinators in the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office ([reportandresponse@unc.edu](mailto:reportandresponse@unc.edu)), Counseling and Psychological Services (confidential), or the Gender Violence Services Coordinators ([gvsc@unc.edu](mailto:gvsc@unc.edu); confidential) to discuss your specific needs. Additional resources are available at [safe.unc.edu](https://safe.unc.edu/).

**POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION**

 The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that educational and employment decisions are based on individuals’ abilities and qualifications. Consistent with this principle and applicable laws, the University’s [Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination](https://unc.policystat.com/policy/4467906/latest/) offers access to its educational programs and activities as well as employment terms and conditions without respect to race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, genetic information, disability, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.  Such a policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied.

If you are experiencing harassment or discrimination, you can seek assistance and file a report through the Report and Response Coordinators (see contact info at  [safe.unc.edu](https://safe.unc.edu/)) or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](http://eoc.unc.edu/), or online to the EOC at <https://eoc.unc.edu/report-an-incident/>.

**DIVERSITY STATEMENT**

I strive to make this classroom an inclusive space for all students.  Please let me know if there is anything I can do to improve; I appreciate any suggestions.  More broadly, our school has adopted diversity and inclusion [mission and vision statements](http://hussman.unc.edu/diversity-and-inclusion) with accompanying goals. These complement the University policy on [prohibiting harrassment and discrimination](https://eoc.unc.edu/our-policies/ppdhrm/).  In summary, UNC is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The Dean of Students (Suite 1106, Student Academic Services Building, CB# 5100, 450 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5100 or [919] 966-4042) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University’s nondiscrimination policies.

**MASK USE**

All enrolled students are required to wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times in our classroom. This requirement is to protect our educational community -- your classmates and me – as we learn together. If you choose not to wear a mask, or wear it improperly, I will ask you to leave immediately, and I will submit a report to the [Office of Student Conduct](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UNCChapelHill&layout_id=23).  At that point you will be disenrolled from this course for the protection of our educational community. Students who have an authorized accommodation from Accessibility Resources and Service have an exception.  For additional information, see <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/university-guidelines-for-facemasks/>.

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