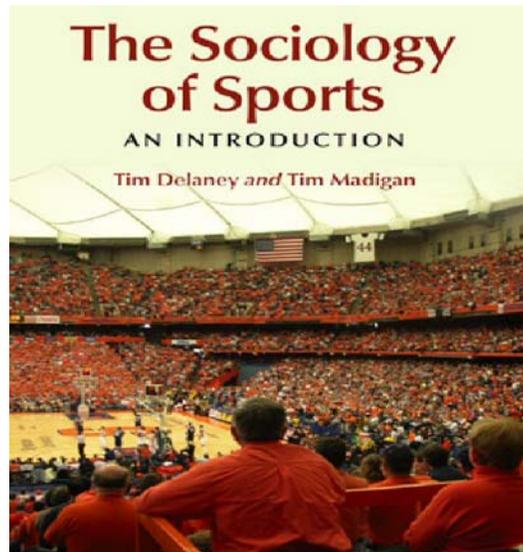


[Professor's New Book Notes Sports Is More Than Just A Game](#)

By Matt Fox, *Contributing Writer*

OSWEGO, NY - As March Madness was coming to an end and the baseball season was just beginning, SUNY Oswego's Tim Delaney was releasing his new book.

The book, "The Sociology of Sports: An Introduction," will serve as one of two textbooks for his sociology of sports class.



The Sociology of Sports: An Introduction,

The textbook, co-authored by Timothy Madigan of St. John Fisher College, is primarily designed for academic use, although Delaney admitted sports is a subject that interests a wide range of fans.

Delaney believes sport is an important social institution.

"Like all the other social institutions – family, education, and religion – sport is intertwined with all of them. One of the fascinating features of sport is that it's like a microcosm of society," Delaney said. "All the elements that can be found in greater society can be found in sport. Therefore, the study of sport is like the study of society itself."

The book covers topics such as gender, race, socialization, culture, deviance, violence and the media as they relate to sports.

The book also looks at why sports are so popular, and how they give people a break from everyday life.

"Sports are a major part of many people's lives in America and around the world," said Delaney, who has specialized in the field since his master's and doctoral theses and has taught the subject for more than a decade.



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Delaney's book will be used for the first time for his "Sociology of Sports" class this summer at the SUNY Oswego Metro Center.

This book combined with another one of his books will cost \$64, shedding \$35 off the price of the current text.

"They'll enjoy these books because I think they are more student friendly; they're more easy to read and they shed a more positive light on sports than the current text I use," Delaney said. "Students will like when I teach the class in the future, because these two books combined will be cheaper than the current book, it's more student friendly and it's more pro-sport. So I think it's a win, win, win there."

"Sport teaches us a lot of values that are cherished in society, such as hard work, dedication, fair play and sportsmanship. It encourages teamwork, dedication to a goal, physical fitness, learning to accept defeat and ideally being gracious as a winner," he added.

As for the future of sports in a weakening economy Delaney believes sports will continue to be prevalent.

"I think sport will continue to have as great of an impact now and it may even get greater. I think especially during poor economic times, people turn to sports especially sports on TV and the internet because it's free," Delaney said.

The poor economy will hurt most sports, he noted.

One in particular will be hurt the most and another will be fine, he thinks.

"The economy is going to hurt people who go to games especially like Major League Baseball where you have 81 home games your not going to be able to get people to fill up the stadiums for 81 home games," Delaney said. "NFL football, that's our number one sport. There's still only eight scheduled home games; football will be fine. Basketball, hockey they're going to take a hit."

"The TV ratings and watching games on the internet will increase, so the economy will work in favor of sports for people who view the games," he continued.

He believes the economy will hurt youth sports in the near future.

"There are three trends in youth sports. They become more privatized, which means things are more selective so that's not good for kids. If they're more selective, fewer kids get to play. More emphasis on developing skills, rather than just play and have fun," Delaney said. "This whole thing with parents and coaches and people out of control is a scary development and it's very alarming and I think that will hamper youth sports in the near future."

Some people see sports as frivolous and just a game, he noted.

"But, after reading this book, they will find that it's a major institution and it's anything but frivolous," Delaney said. "Sports is a multibillion-dollar industry. For many people, it's very important."