

FINAL PAPER PROMPT

DUE DATE: 8:15 p.m., Monday, May 7

PAGE LENGTH: 6-8 pages

STYLE: MLA or APA (Be consistent with citations and/or endnotes)

Double-spaced, 12-point Cambria/Times New Roman font

Throughout the course of this semester, you have read about, discussed and studied capitalism/Marxism, the Sport-Media Complex, racism, militarism of sport, sexism and myths involved in “big-time” college athletics.

For your FINAL, you are required to read “*Scoreboard, Baby: A Story of College Football, Crime, and Complicity*” by Ken Armstrong and Nick Perry. This non-fiction book explores the 2000 Washington Huskies football team – a team that won the ’01 Rose Bowl while also being embroiled in several scandals of varying degree and topic. The scandals and issues that plagued this football team connect directly - *or indirectly* – with the topics you studied in the class (none more important than **CAPITALISM.**)

For your final paper, you will explicitly detail these connections.

You will do this by coming up with two to four thesis statements regarding questions you come up with yourself. You will detail the episode/episodes found in the book and use the course readings, class discussions and your own writings to support your thesis statements in answering questions.

Some questions you might consider to organize your paper could be:

- *Who represents the bourgeoisie and proletariat in this book, and in what ways do they represent traditional ideals of Marxist ideology?*

- *How do Marx's ideas of "alienation" present themselves in the book?*
- *In what ways is the Sports-Media Complex at play in the book?*
- *How did the notion of the "spectacle" help to cover up so much malfeasance?*
- *How do the Washington Huskies experience racism, and how does that affect the scandals?*
- *Sexual and domestic violence are large parts of this narrative. How is masculinity presented in this book?*
- *How and why did the bourgeoisie exploit the proletariat in this book?*
- *We discussed the "myths" present in big-time college sports. Where/how do these stories fit into what is going on in this book (or, where/how don't they?)*

You are free to come up with questions of your own. Just be sure they tie directly in to course material.

The final paper is *not* a book review. I've read it five times – I don't need a rundown!

While you may cite any reading we have already done in the class, anything else you come across, notes from lectures/discussions (cite the date) or from your own exams or papers (still must cite them), **do not write an extended response paper.**

This is a rigorous academic paper that requires you identify larger theoretical questions, create hypotheses about the questions and support those hypotheses.

The [rubric found here](#) remains in play. I suggest you read it before writing.