

Extra Credit Assignment:

Due Monday, Sept. 26th (MWF Class) or Tuesday, Sept. 27th (TR class):

Points: 10 points towards your first paper (or your extra credit bank)

Grading Scale: Pass (10 pts), Fail (0 pts)

Chapter 16: “Boyhood, Organized Sports, and the Construction of Masculinities,” by Michael A. Messner.

Michael A. Messner’s article delves into the world of organized male sports. Specifically, he addresses how masculinity is defined through social interaction evident in organized sports. For this assignment, read (or reread) the article and address the follow questions.

- 1.) Many of the men interviewed initially explained their participation in sports as “a natural instinct.” The author, on the other hand, searches for a deeper understanding of the factors that drove these young men to participate in sports. What are the key factors that he discusses? For each factor, discuss why the author views it as important.
- 2.) The author divides the men interviewed in his study into two groups: higher-status and working class. How does this help the author understand different processes of socialization in his study?
- 3.) In your opinion, is the socialization of boys into sports different than the socialization of females? If yes, do these differences reflect larger trends of gender socialization for young boys and girls?