

**Coffeyville Community College**

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**HPER-107**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**FOR**

**THE HISTORY AND BUSINESS  
OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING**

**Mark Frank  
Instructor**

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**COURSE NUMBER:** HPER-107      **COURSE TITLE:** The History and Business of Professional Wrestling:

**CREDIT HOURS:** 1

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mark Frank

**OFFICE LOCATION:** 170 Arts and Sciences

**OFFICE HOURS:** See schedule posted on office door

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**PREREQUISITE(S):** None

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Pro Wrestling* by Captain Lou Albano

**VIEWING MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Many viewing materials will be watched as a class throughout the semester. If a student misses a class session, they are recommended to borrow the viewing from the instructor. Also, students are expected to watch a current wrestling show a few times during the semester. WWE has three shows: WWE RAW, Monday 9 PM to 11 PM on USA; ECW, Tuesday, 10 PM to 11 PM on Sci-Fi; and Friday Night SmackDown, 8 PM to 10 PM on the My Network, TNA Wrestling 8pm Thursdays on Spike TV.

One important point for in-class viewing: much of the semester will feature watching various wrestling performances. As is the case with fans of wrestling, whether live or televised, students are encouraged to talk during our in-class viewing of these products. There is a heavy amount of in-class viewing throughout the semester, but viewing and discussion is not meant to be mutually exclusive in this case.

**CLASS BLOG:** One of the major undertakings of the class will be a class blog, which will be public through Blogger. Each member of the class is expected to write a minimum of two new posts each week (a few paragraphs in length) and make a minimum of four comments (of at least one paragraph) to the posts of colleagues each week.

The intent of the class blog is to foster a continuous discussion about reading materials, in-class viewings, points made by guest lecturers, and information from the current wrestling product and Wrestling Observer.

**COURSE  
DESCRIPTION:**

This class will explore the cultural history and media business industry surrounding the masculine drama of professional wrestling known today as sports entertainment. Beginning with wrestling's roots in sport and carnival, the class examines how new technologies and changes in the television industry led to evolution for pro wrestling style and promotion and how shifts in wrestling characters demonstrate changes in the depiction of American masculinity. The class will move chronologically in an examination of how wrestling characters and performances have changed, focusing particularly on the history of pro wrestling, 1900s to the present. Students may have previous knowledge of wrestling but are not required to, nor are they required to be a fan (although it is certainly not discouraged, either)

**EXPECTED LEARNER  
OUTCOMES:**

1. Understand The History of Professional Wrestling
2. Recognize popular wrestling characters from the past to the present
3. Discuss the inner (and Outer)workings of ring moves
4. Understand how to develop a wrestling character for the wring
5. Discuss wrestling today
6. Discuss the Inner working backstage and the industry entertainment business side of wrestling
7. Review past matches and discuss and recognize wrestling scripted matches
8. Create a wrestler complete with name, costume and ring promo on camera.

**LEARNING TASKS  
AND ACTIVITIES:**

Chapter 1: The Crazy World Called Pro Wrestling  
Chapter 2: The Founding Fathers: Wrestling Colorful History  
Chapter 3: Modern Madness: Wrestling Today  
Chapter 4: The Inner and Outer Workings of The Ring  
Chapter 5: Beyond the Squared Circle

**ASSESSMENT OF  
OUTCOMES:**

A 100%-90%  
B 89%-80%  
C 79%-70%  
D 69%-60%  
F 59%-0%

\*Incompletes will only be given if previously agreed upon by the student and instructor with a specific time designated for the completion of the incomplete work.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Attendance at all class meetings       | 10% |
| Participation in Class Discussion      | 20% |
| Outside Blog                           | 20% |
| 10 Quizzes on reading assignments      | 25% |
| Outside viewing and Notes on wrestling | 15% |
| Final Examination                      | 10% |

\*Quizzes must be taken on the scheduled day and cannot be made up. After 6 absences in this class the student will be dropped from the course.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes. Absences resulting from participation in college sponsored activities or due to serious illness or death in the family are excused if prior notification is given by the student. The result of an excused absence is the opportunity for the student to make-up missed work, and then it must be made up before the second class period following the absence. **It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements for classes missed.**

## COMPENTENCIES:

### Section I Pro Wrestling

#### UNDERSTAND THE CRAZY WORLD OF PRO WRESTLING

1. Explain the allure of Pro wrestling
2. Define the history of Pro Wrestling
3. Describe the Rules of Pro Wrestling
4. Identify the many different wrestling Organizations and Federations
5. Explain the Rules of Professional wrestling
6. Recognize the “smoke and “mirrors” of Professional Wrestling

### Section II

#### RECOGNIZE THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

1. Define Professional wrestlers from the turn of the century
2. Recognize Post-war Wrestlers and New Pro Wrestling
3. Define Today’s top wrestling stars
4. Recognize the flashy Colorful characters of notoriety of Pro wrestling
5. Explain the Rowdy Rivalries of past and present between wrestling factions and characters.

### Section III

#### DEFINE WRESTLING TODAY

1. Identify Wrestling Managers of the Past and present
2. Identify wrestling promoters through out the history of Pro wrestling
3. Recognize women wrestling
4. Define the “novelty act” characters in wrestling
5. Recognize the “dirt sheets” of Pro wrestling
6. Define Sports Entertainment as it was revolutionized through television and multi-media

### Section IV

#### RECOGNIZE THE INNER AND OUTER WORKING OF PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING

1. Recognize the farm systems of Pro Wrestling
2. Define all the professional moves and choreography of Pro Wrestling
3. Define the backstage inner making of Pro wrestling behind the camera’s
4. Distinguish between tag-team wrestling and solo wrestling
5. Contrast the expose of the wild antics backstage and professionalism in pro wrestling

### Section V

#### DISCUSS BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE

1. Define marketing as it relates to professional wrestling
2. Relate pay per view and television to marketing to pro wrestling
3. Name where to find wrestling resources
4. Name and describe the wrestling promotions today

**This syllabus is subject to revision with prior notification to the student by the instructor.**