# **Fall 2025 Syllabus**

# **SOCI 3996-351 (14951) / 1 Credit**

# **Honors College Mentored Research**

# **(Also URF Program)**

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karen Monique Gregg

 Karen.Gregg@UNT.edu

Student / Researcher: Nate Quist

 NateQuist@my.unt.edu

Meeting Dates: 8/21, 9/2, 9/16, 9/30, 10/14, 10/28, 11/11, 11/18, 12/2

Time: 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Place: Dr. Gregg’s Office in Sycamore Hall 288V[[1]](#footnote-1)

## Explanation of Work

In the Spring 2025 semester Nate Quist met with Dr. Gregg on several occasions to discuss his Undergraduate Research Fellow proposal for research. Dr. Gregg agreed to mentor him if he was selected for the URF program. He then applied for the URF program at UNT and was selected based on his proposal to study the intersection of racial bias, public perception, and media portrayal of Black athletes in the United States. (See attached Research Proposal for more detail.) After working with Dr. Gregg for two semesters, he will write a paper and then present this research in the form of a poster presentation and oral argument at UNT Scholars Day (April 2026). The following Tentative Schedule is based on what Nate Quist wrote in his proposal.

## Tentative Schedule

Nate Quist envisioned meeting with me as his Faculty Mentor bi-weekly. Below is a tentative schedule with goals that should be achieved by Nate Quist by the embedded dates. Nate Quist should come to meetings ready to discuss progress on each of the goals listed below. In the even he cannot make a meeting date and time, he is required to let Dr. Gregg know 24-hours in advance of missing the meeting and attempt to reschedule at a later and mutually agreeable time.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date / Check** | **Description** | **Other Details** |
| 8/21 | Week One of semester. Meet to iron out details of this research project and develop a plan for proceeding. NOTE: Nate Quist missed the first meeting. Dr. Gregg used the time to develop this syllabus and plan for going forward. | Sycamore 288V |
| 9/2 | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Find 5 examples of athletes (different) and study the details of what happened to them. This is to establish a “pattern” and make the case that this is a problem worthy of looking into. Justify the exploration of the research topic.
* Write up (in your own words) a description for each athlete you choose.
 | Focus: Examples to make argumentSubmit to Canvas. Bring printed copy of paper to meeting. |
| 9/6  | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Study what the media said about the 5 athletes. How did they portray the Black athletes? Do you see a pattern?
* Try to locate and understand stereotypes and harmful narratives.
* Write up (in your own words) the pattern you see in the news stories.
 | Focus: Media FramingSubmit to Canvas. Bring printed copy of paper to meeting. |
| 9/30 | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Begin writing.
	+ Introduction – Explain the problem as you see it (stereotypes and harmful narratives)
	+ Briefly present facts of each athlete’s case
	+ Provide examples of racial bias found in public perceptions (media?) about the athletes
 | Focus: WriteSubmit to Canvas. Bring printed copy of paper to meeting. |
| 10/14 | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Continue writing.
	+ Continue to write about examples o racial bias found in perceptions (media?) about the athletes
 | Focus: WriteSubmit to Canvas. Bring printed copy of paper to meeting. |
| 10/28 | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Begin writing in a way that makes a case that the pattern you are seeing is a problem that needs attention (resolving?). Revisit some things said in the introduction.
 | Focus: WriteSubmit to Canvas. Bring printed copy of paper to meeting. |
| 11/11 | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Research and consider potential solutions that might help to reshape stereotypes and harmful narratives and that may lead to more positive social outcomes for the Black athletes. Write about this.
 | Focus: WriteSubmit to Canvas. Bring printed copy of paper to meeting. |
| NOTE: There is only one week between these two meetings. |
| 11/18 | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Should be almost finished with the paper
* Create list of references for the end of the paper
* Use APA or MLA (use the Purdue Owl for help)
* Submit first draft to Dr. Gregg to read and provide feedback
 | Focus: FormattingSubmit to Canvas. Bring printed copy of paper to meeting. |
| 12/2 | Meet in Dr. Gregg’s office to provide progress update. **Goals**: * Submit final paper to Dr. Gregg in Canvas before midnight on 12/2.
 | Turn in paper in Canvas.  |

## Questions and Notes for Nate to Consider:

* Do you want to focus on just male Black athletes?
* Do you want to exclusively study the U.S.?
* When you say “public perception”, do you mean the media?
* In your writing you will need to define what you mean by the following terms: racial bias, social narratives (that are harmful).
* You’ll need to provide examples of negative social outcomes for the Black athletes you choose to focus on.
* What is “media framing”? Where did you learn this term? You’ll need to define what this means in your writing. When you discuss this, use the word “frame” a lot.
* In your proposal you write that you will research 5-10 case studies. I suggest at this time to find 5 cases that illustrate what you want to write about. You can always add more once the paper is finished.
* Your tone in the paper should be an argument. You are arguing that this is a social problem and that it needs resolving. This will be your voice.
* In the Spring 2026 we will work on the poster and the presentation.

**Research Proposal**

Research Participation Description This research project aims to explore the intersection of racial bias, public perception, and media portrayal of Black American athletes who have been involved in legal or violent incidents. The project will examine how systemic factors and social narratives contribute to public judgment and long-term societal outcomes for these individuals. The research will also identify potential solutions that can help reshape harmful stereotypes and promote more positive narratives.

**Student Responsibilities**

As the student researcher, I will:

* Conduct a comprehensive literature review on athlete misconduct and racialized media coverage.
* Identify and analyze 5–10 case studies involving Black American athletes and related legal controversies or public backlash.
* Examine media framing through qualitative content analysis methods.
* Evaluate institutional responses and public discourse across selected cases.
* Propose community-based or policy-level solutions for changing narratives around Black male success.
* Submit progress updates to my faculty mentor throughout the semester.

**Final Research Product**

The final deliverable will be a 8-10 page research paper in APA format summarizing the project’s findings, literature synthesis, and proposed solutions. I will also prepare a poster board research presentation for submission to both my faculty mentor and the Honors College.

**Faculty Mentorship**

I will meet with my faculty mentor biweekly on Mondays, either in person or via Zoom, depending on availability. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed based on project progress.

**Schedule**

I will meet with my faculty mentor biweekly on Mondays, either in person or via Zoom, depending on availability. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed based on project progress.

**IRB Status**

This project will rely solely on secondary sources such as media reports, academic literature, and publicly available data. No data collection involving human subjects will occur, and therefore no IRB application is required.

1. Meetings will not be held over Zoom. All meetings will be face-to-face in order to workshop the paper as it progresses. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)