

History 2337
Alexis McCrossen
Course Proposal for May Term 2017

Course Overview

This course presents an overview of the development of amateur and professional athletics over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the United States. Class lectures will include excerpts from sports documentaries so as to bring the history of American sport to life: we will see innings from early baseball games, the rough and tumble of football, and the feats of boxers within the ring, as well as other triumphs and struggles.

Instructor Biography

Professor McCrossen has been teaching history at SMU for more than twenty years. She is the author of *Holy Day, Holiday: The American Sunday* and *Marking Modern Times: Clocks, Watches, and Other Timekeepers in American Life*. Professor McCrossen competed in intercollegiate athletics. She is a fan of sport in general.

Benefits of Course

- Introduces students to the study of sports in the United States
- Fulfills UC requirements
- Considers major themes and moments in sports history
- Encourages a deep understanding and appreciation of sports as more than just a game
- Allows students to see and experience sports through the lenses of history and religious studies

UC/GEC Tags and Student Learning Outcomes

Historical Contexts – Level I

- Students will be able to identify the main events, actors, and evidence involved in sports in the United States during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Students will be able to summarize in their own prose the major changes in sports that took place over time during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Human Diversity

- With respect to issues related to race, ethnicity, and gender students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, and political conditions of identity formation within the broad context of sports.
- Students will learn about how race, ethnicity and gender influenced individual and group status, treatment, and accomplishments within particular sports.

History 2337-001 History of Sports in the United States

Ms. Alexis McCrossen, Professor, Department of History, SMU amccross@smu.edu

May Term 2017 (May 18-June 2), 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm, Dallas Campus SMU, Classroom TBD

DRAFT VERSION (prepared January 3, 2017)

Course Description This course presents an overview of the development of amateur and professional athletics over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the United States. Class lectures will include excerpts from sports documentaries so as to bring the history of American sport to life: we will see innings from early baseball games, the rough and tumble of football, and the feats of boxers within the ring, as well as other triumphs and struggles.

Benefits of Course: The course fulfills many UC requirements while introducing students to the study of sports in the United States. It introduces students to major themes and moments in sports history, while allowing them to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of more than the game. The field trips encourage students to see and experience sports through the lenses of history and religious studies.

Student Learning Outcomes

Historical Contexts – Level I

- Students will be able to identify the main events, actors, and evidence involved in sports in the United States during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Students will be able to summarize in their own prose the major changes in sports that took place over time during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Human Diversity

- With respect to issues related to race, ethnicity, and gender students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, and political conditions of identity formation within the broad context of sports.
- Students will learn about how race, ethnicity and gender influenced individual and group status, treatment, and accomplishments within particular sports.

Assigned Text Please acquire a hard copy of Richard Davies' *Sports in American Life* (2nd edition, 2011).

Field Trips: We will take two field trips, which will cost students no more than \$75, payable to the instructor.

Disability Accommodations Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement. (University Policy No. 2.4.)

Evaluation & Expectations The course grade will be based on class discussions, a PPT presentation about an athlete or sporting event, quiz grades, and the final exam. Please come to class prepared. Attendance is required. The University's policies do not excuse absences due to illness, travel, family or other personal reasons. **The use of electronic devices in class is prohibited.** Please do not come to class late or leave early—doing so will result in a penalty to your final grade. Failure to attend class, chronic lack of preparation, and comportment that interferes with other students' ability to learn will result in being dropped from the course.

Quizzes You may use one-page or handwritten or printed notes to help you on your quizzes. You may not use your computer or other electronic devices during class.

Course Schedule

Th 5/18

The Emergence of Organized Sport

Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 1 "The Emergence of Organized Sports," and chapter 4 "The Modernization of American Sports, 1890-1920"

- F 5/19 The Early Years of Baseball & Football**
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 2 “Baseball: ‘This Noble and Enervating Game’” and chapter 3 “The Formative Years of College Football”
- M 5/22 From Major Leagues to Girl’s Games**
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 5 “Baseball Ascendant, 1890-1930” and chapter 6 “Playing Nice: Women and Sports”
- T 5/23 Sports between World War I and World War II**
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 7 “Sports on Campus, 1920-1950” and Chapter 8 “Sports in an Age of Ballyhoo, Depression, and War, 1920-1945”
- W 5/24 Race, Television, and Money: Sports at Midcentury**
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* Chapter 9 “America’s Greatest Dilemma” and chapter 10 “Television Changes the Image of American Sports”
- Th 5/25 Field Trip to AT&T Stadium**
- F 5/26 College and Professional Sports in the Modern Era**
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 11 “College Sports in the Modern Era” and chapter 12 “Play for Pay”
- M 5/29 Memorial Day—No Class Meeting**
- T 5/30 A New Era in Sports: A Kaleidoscope of Athletes**
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 14 “The Persistent Dilemma of Race” and chapter 15 “Playing Nice No Longer: Women’s Sports, 1960-2010”
- W 5/31 Texas Rangers vs. Tampa Bay Time TBA**
- Th 6/1 The Olympics**
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 13 “Do You Believe in Miracles?”
- F 6/2 Final Exam**