

## **History 2337-001 History of Sports in the United States**

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**May Term 2015 (May 14-29), 10-2pm, Dallas Campus SMU, Classroom TBD**

**Note: Class schedule subject to change; expectations and textbooks**

**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.

**Assigned Reading Please purchase a hard copy of the textbooks. Please acquire hard copies of the textbooks.** The following books are available for purchase from the SMU bookstore & from on-line booksellers: Richard Davies' *Sports in American Life* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2011) and Jeffrey Scholes and Raphael Sassower, *Religion and Sports in American Culture* (Routledge, 2013).

**Field Trips: We will take two field trips, which will cost students \$45, payable to the instructor.** This fee will cover the cost of tickets for a Rough Riders baseball game and the price of a VIP tour of AT&T Stadium.

**Evaluation & Expectations** The course grade will be based on class discussion, 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.

**Disability Accommodations** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability should email the instructor to make appropriate arrangements after contacting the Coordinator for Disability Services.

### **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.

#### **Philosophical and Religious Inquiry and Ethics -- Level II**

- Students will critically reflect on and apply some of the theoretical methods germane to the fields of ethics and religious studies.
- Students will learn about the relationship between established faith traditions and sports, considering when and how sports were partners with faith traditions and when and how sports assumed the shape of civil religion in the United States.

#### **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.

## *Course Schedule*

- Th 5/14      Religion and Sports**  
Prep: Please read *Religion and Sports in American Culture* Introduction, chapters 1-7 and Conclusions
- F 5/15      Sport as Religion and Ritual**  
Prep: Please review *Religion and Sports in American Culture*
- S 5/17      Rangers Game vs. the Indians 2:05 pm [not required]**
- M 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”
- T 5/19      The Early Years of Football**  
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 3 “The Formative Years of College Football,” chapter 7 “Sports on Campus, 1920-1950,” and pp. 138-141
- W 5/20      The Early Years of Baseball**  
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 2 “Baseball: This Noble and Envigoring Game” and chapter 5 “Baseball Ascendant, 1890-1930”  
**Dr. Pepper Ballpark in Frisco -- Frisco Rough Riders vs. Midland at 11:05am**
- Th 5/21      Sports during the First Half of the Twentieth Century**  
Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 6 “Playing Nice: Women and Sports” and Chapter 8 “Sports in an Age of Ballyhoo, Depression, and War, 1920-1945.”
- F 5/22      Field Trip to AT&T Stadium, Arlington. Details TBA.**
- M 5/25      No class meeting -- Memorial Day**
- T 5/26      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”
- W 5/27      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”
- Th 5/28      A New Era in Sports: Black & Female 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”  
**Rangers Game vs. Red Sox at 7:05 pm [not required]**
- F 5/29      Final Exam**