

History 2337 History of Sports in the United States

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May Term 2014 (May 15-30), 10am-12pm, Dallas Campus SMU, Classroom Dallas Hall 152

Section 001 Discussion section meets 12:30-2:30 Section 002 Discussion section meets 3-5

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. We will take two field trips: to Rangers Stadium in Arlington to see an afternoon game and to AT&T Stadium in Arlington where we will take a guided tour.

Assigned Reading The following book is available for purchase from the SMU bookstore & from on-line booksellers: Richard Davies' *Sports in American Life* (2nd edition, 2011).

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 Rangers 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. Students are expected to come to class prepared. Attendance is required. The University's policies do not excuse absences due to illness, travel, family or other personal reasons. Please do not come to class late.

Classroom comportment: 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. Please do not eat 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 5/15

Sport as Civil Religion

Prep: Because you might be quizzed on the reading, you might wish to print it out.

- Karen Sternheimer, "Civil Religion" (2012) posted on *Everyday Sociology* blog <http://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2012/06/civil-religion.html>
- Eric Bain-Selbo, "From Lost Cause to Third-and-Long: College Football and the Civil Religion of the South," in *The Journal of Southern Religion* (no date) <http://jsr.fsu.edu/Volume11/Selbo.htm>

F 5/16

Sport as Religion and Ritual

Prep: Because you might be quizzed on the reading, you might wish to print it out.

- Michael Butterworth, "Fox Sports, Super Bowl XLII, and the Affirmation of American Civil Religion," *Journal of Sports & Society* 32 (2008): 318-323 [handout]
- Peter Gardella, "Super Bowl ads and American civil religion" (2014) posted on OUPblog <http://blog.oup.com/2014/02/super-bowl-ads-american-civil-religion/>
- James Wellman "Super Bowl, Civil Religion and Our Dirty Little Secret" (2014), posted on Patheos blog <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jameswellman/2014/01/super-bowl-civil-religion-and-our-dirty-little-secret/>
- Andrew Hess, "Baseball as a Civil Religion" (2009) posted on *Just Trying to Feed My Children* blog <http://justtryintofeedmychildren.blogspot.com/2009/01/baseball-as-civil-religion.html>

M 5/19

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, 1890-1930"

T 5/20

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 5/21

The Early Years of Baseball

Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 2 "Baseball: This Noble and Enervating Game" and chapter 5 "Baseball Ascendant, 1890-1930"

No sections – baseball game instead!

Rangers vs. Mariners, Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, 1:05 pm. Nolan Ryan Beef Dollar Hot Dog Day!

Th 5/22

Baseball in the Twentieth Century

Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* pp. 148-153, 155-158, 162-166, 171-177, 232-240, 293-295, 338-341, 353-356 and review Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 2 and 5

F 5/23

Professional Football

Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 10 "Television Changes the Image of American Sports" and pp. 227-232, 240-243

No class or section meetings -- Field Trip to AT&T Stadium, Arlington.

Meet at Cowboys Stadium Pro Shop (inside Entry A) at 12:30. There is free parking in Lots 1 and 2, which are outside Entry A. Tour will be over by 2:30.

M 5/26

No class meeting -- Memorial Day

T 5/27

College Sports in the Modern Era

Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* pp. 180-184, chapter 11 "College Sports in the Modern Era," and pp. 357-365

W 5/28

Race and Sports

Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* pp. 144-147, chapter 9 "America's Great Dilemma" and chapter 14 "The Persistent Dilemma of Race"

Th 5/29

Women and Sports

Prep: Davies *Sports in American Life* chapter 6 "Playing Nice: Women and Sports, 1860-1945" and chapter 15 "Playing Nice No Longer: Women's Sports, 1960-2010"

F 5/30

Final Exam 10-12 p.m.