History 2337 History of Sports in the United States
Ms. Alexis McCrossen, Professor, Department of History, SMU amccross@smu.edu
J-Term 2019 (Weekdays January 7-16): Class meets for six hours beginning promptly at 9am.
Updated October 10, 2018

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. Each class meeting will include sports history lectures (often illustrated), the screening of a sports documentary, and a guided discussion. The course considers the social, cultural, religious, and business history of sport in the United States. Because the course is during the high point of the college and professional football season, some of our focus will be on football.

Student Learning Outcomes
This course fulfills the following two UC requirements:

Historical Contexts UC2012 (Level 1) & UC2016 * Students will be able to identify key events, actors, and evidence involved in a defined historical period(s).

* Students will be able to summarize the major changes that took place in a defined historical period(s).

Human Diversity UC2012 & UC2016 * Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, or political conditions of identity formation and function in human society, including the ways in which these conditions influence individual or group status, treatment, or accomplishments.

Assigned Reading

Evaluation & Expectations
The course grade will be based on student performance in class discussion, on quizzes, on a final examination, and on a PPT presentation. Students are expected to come to class prepared. The class schedule on the syllabus indicates how students should prepare for class. Attendance is required. Please note that the University’s policies do not excuse absences due to illness, travel, family or other personal reasons. Please do not come to class late. You may not use your computer or other electronic devices during class.

Quizzes
You may use one-page of handwritten or printed notes to help you on your quizzes. The quizzes will be over the assigned reading for that day of class & might ask general questions about your assigned topic in the sporting news.

PPT Presentations
Students will be assigned topics from the assigned reading about which to do further research and prepare an 8-10 minute presentation using images and video. The presentation must present:

1. An analysis. Why is the event, figure or institution is significant to sports history?

2. Historic film and television footage and historic illustrations and images. Focus on making good selections that a documentary filmmaker might use in a film.

Sports News
Please follow the sports news. You are expected to follow the sports news on your assigned topic. We will discuss the sports news in class, thinking through how it connects to what we have learned about the history of sports. I will also ask questions about it on quizzes and the final exam.

Preparation before JTerm: Students are expected to do the following work before the semester starts:
Please read and takes notes from Richard Davies’ *Sports in American Life* chapters 1-6. Identify one topic from each chapter that captured your attention and then do further research about the topic, looking for information using SMU’s library resources.
Course Schedule

M 1/7   The Emergence of Organized Sport  
Prep: Read Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 1 & 2  
Optional: Attend Mavs v. Lakers 8:30pm  
Optional: Watch College Football National Championship Game

T 1/8   The Modernization of Sport  
Prep: Read Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 3 & 4

W 1/9   From the Major Leagues to Girl’s Games  
Prep: Read Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 5 & 6

Th 1/10  Sports between World War I and World War II  
Prep: Read Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 7 & 8

F 1/11  Race and Sports  
Prep: Read Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 9 & 14

Sa 1/12  Watch a quarter of an AFC or NFC divisional playoff game.

Su 1/13  Watch a quarter of an AFC or NFC divisional playoff game.  
Optional: Attend Mavs v. Golden State 7pm game

M 1/14  Professional Sports in the Modern Era  
Prep: Read Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 10 & 12

T 1/15  College Sports & Women’s Sports  
Prep: Read Davies *Sports in American Life* chapters 11 & 15

W 1/16  Final Examination

Attendance Faithful attendance is expected. Missing more than one class meeting will result in being dropped from the course, or, if the drop date has passed, receiving an F for the course. University policies do not excuse absences due to illness, travel, family or other personal reasons.

Excused Absences due to Religious Observance Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue).

Academic Honesty Please refer to the Honor Code in the SMU Student Handbook for a complete explanation of the Honor Code. The SMU Student Honor Code prohibits plagiarism of any kind. Faculty who suspect plagiarism should consult http://smu.edu/honorcouncil/ for appropriate actions and options.

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.