HISTORY 221:
CULTURAL HISTORY OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS IN AMERICA
Spring 2005
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Plan of the Class

Organized sports occupy a central place in modern American society, and they have become one of the most recognizable popular culture productions of the United States. This course will investigate the history of sporting and athletic endeavors by tracing their rise from informal folk games to a multi-billion dollar entertainment industry. We will examine the humble beginnings of these “wicked amusements” in colonial and pre-colonial America and follow them forward to the present time to discuss such current controversies as stadium welfare, steroids, and Native American mascots.

America’s sporting culture has both shaped the greater society and been heavily influenced by larger trends in our country’s history. We will discuss such vital topics as industrialization, urbanization, and commercialization to understand the development of modern athletics. We will seek to understand the evolution of both the business-side and the play-side of sports.

At the same time, we will examine the heavily racialized and gendered landscape of America’s sporting ethos. For most of the athletic history of the United States, white men dominated sports. In response to their exclusion from mainstream athletics, women, racial minorities, ethnic communities, and other marginalized groups developed their own vibrant athletic cultures. We will discuss how these parallel and competing understandings have shaped ideas about gender and race and sport.
In short, we will explore the rise of American athletics from a variety of perspectives and through many primary and secondary sources. We will strive to understand why sports have become such an important part of American culture and society.

**Required Readings:**

**Books (Available at the University Book Store):**


**Articles and Primary Documents:**

A selection of articles and primary documents are available in one of the following places:

**Electronic Reserves at College Library:** To access e-reserves login to MyUW portal (http://my.wisc.edu); click on the “Academic” tab. In your list of current courses, those with library reserves available contain a link for “library/reserve.” These articles are noted as [ER] on the syllabus.

**Articles on the Web:** Some selections are available on the web. When possible, direct links to these articles are provided on the course website. These article are noted as [WEB].

Amateur Athletic Foundation Website (http://www.aaf.org): Many articles from *The Journal of Sport History* are provided by the Amateur Athletic Foundation website.

JStor and History Cooperative (http://www.jstor.org and http://www.historycooperative.org): Direct links to these articles from the course website should work when you use a computer on the University of Wisconsin campus. Otherwise, these articles can be accessed through the University of Wisconsin Library (http://library.wisc.edu).

**Course Requirements**

1. Participation (10%)
   
   Class participation will be evaluated based on your participation in small and large class discussions; quizzes; and other in-class assignments. You are expected to attend each lecture and will not be allowed to make up in-class assignments that you miss.

   Quizzes: There will be occasional unannounced quizzes in class that will test your knowledge of previous lectures and/or the reading due in class.

   Discussion: On select Fridays, the class will meet in two separate groups for more in-depth discussion of readings and lectures. You will be assigned to one of the groups and expected to attend that section when we split into discussion groups.
2. Two 2-3 page papers (20%)
You will write two short 2-3 page papers. A response paper to *The Manly Art* will be due in class on Friday, February 4th. A primary source analysis paper will be due in class on Friday, March 4th.

3. Mid-term examination (20%)
The Mid-term exam will take place in class on Wednesday, March 9th.

4. Final Paper (25%)
You will write a 4-6 page paper on an original topic of your choice. This paper must be substantially based on primary sources. You should discuss your topic with me before you write it. The final paper will be due in class on Friday, April 29th.

5. Final Examination (25%)
The final exam will take place on Friday, May 13th at 2:45 p.m.

**A Note on Plagiarism and Cheating**
All papers, exams, and other assignments should be your own work and your own words. Any student caught plagiarizing or cheating will, at minimum, receive a zero on the assignment with the possibility of further disciplinary action.

If you have any questions, please see me or consult the Writing Center's guide on plagiarism (http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QuotingSources.html) or the University of Wisconsin's Academic Misconduct Policies (http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct01.htm).
Course Schedule (Note: Complete assigned readings before class.)

Week 1: Introduction
Wed. January 19: Introduction
Fri. January 21: The Prehistory of the North American Sporting Experience

Secondary Sources:
Friday:

Primary Sources:
Friday:
King James I, “Book of Sports” 1618, 3 pages. [WEB-PDF]

Week 2: Sport in Early America
Mon. January 24: Puritans and Cavaliers at Play

Secondary Sources:
Monday:

Wednesday:
Nancy L. Struna, “Gender and Sporting Practice in Early America,” [Sport in America, pages 13-29]

Friday:
Elliot J. Gorn, The Manly Art
   Chapter 1, “Hats in the Ring,” pages 34-56
   Chapter 4, “The Meaning of Prize Fighting,” pages 129-144

Week 3: Origins of America’s Modern Sporting Culture
Wed. February 2: The Strenuous Life and a “Crisis of Masculinity”
Fri. February 4: DISCUSSION/ Paper due on Manly Art

Secondary Sources:
Monday:
Friday:
Elliot J. Gorn, *The Manly Art*
   Chapter 7, “The End of the Bare-Knuckle Era,” pages 207-237

Primary Sources:
Wednesday:
Excerpts from Thomas Higginson, *Saints and Their Bodies* (1858), 4 pages. [WEB]


*Week 4: Selling Sports*
Mon. February 7: “The National Pastime:” Baseball, Community and an American Sport
Wed. February 9: Commercialization of Sports
Fri. February 11: Movie Selections

Secondary Sources:
Monday:


Wednesday:
Stephen Hardy, “Adopted By All the Leading Clubs:” Sporting Goods and the Shaping of Leisure,” [Sport in America, pages 133-151]

Primary Sources:
Wednesday:
John Montgomery Ward, “Is the Ball Player A Chattel?” *Lippincott’s Magazine* August 1887, 4 pages. [WEB]

*Week 5: Inventing the Amateur*
Mon. February 14: “Gentleman Playing a Game:” Amateurism and the Olympics
Wed. February 16: The Rise of College Sports
Fri. February 18: DISCUSSION: Analyzing Primary Sources

Secondary Sources:
Monday:

Wednesday:

Ronald A. Smith, “Preludes to the NCAA: Early Failures of Faculty Intercollegiate Athletic Control,” [Sport in America, pages 151-162]

**Primary Sources:**

**Wednesday:**

**Week 6: Who Can Play? And Who Can’t Play?**
Mon. February 21: Emergence of the Female Athlete and the Rise of the Gender Line
Wed. February 23: Emergence of the Black Athlete and the Rise of the Color Line
Fri. February 25: Movie: Jack Johnson

**Secondary Sources:**

**Monday:**
Roberta Park, “‘Embodied Selves:’ The Rise and Development of Concern for Physical Education, Active Games and Recreation for American Women, 1776-1865,” [Sport in America, pages 69-94]

**Wednesday:**

**Primary Sources:**

**Monday:**
Dudley Sargent, “Are Athletics Making Girls Masculine?,” (1912), 4 pages. [WEB]

**Wednesday:**
Bliss Perry, “Chapter XI,” *The Plated City* (New York: Charles Scribner and Sons, 1895), pages 220-235. [A Fictional Account of the color line in baseball] [ER]

**Week 7: Sport As Social Control**
Mon. February 28: Ethnic Communities: Sport and Americanization
Wed. March 2: The Parks Problem
Fri. March 4: Institutionalizing Control: The YMCA and Corporate Teams/ Primary Source Paper Due

**Secondary Sources:**

**Monday:**


**Wednesday:**

**Friday:**
John R. Schleppi, “‘It Pays’: John H. Patterson and Industrial Recreation at the National Cash Register Company,” *Journal of Sport History* Vol. 6, No. 3 (Winter 1979), pages 220-228. [WEB-AAFLA]

**Week 8**
Mon. March 7: REVIEW SESSION
Wed. March 9: MID-TERM Exam
Fri. March 11: Radios, Newspaper, and Popular Idols

**Secondary Sources:**
**Friday:**
Mark Dyreson, “The Emergence of Consumer Culture and the Transformation of Physical Culture: American Sport in the 1920s,” [Sport in America, pages 207-224]

**Week 9: The 1920 and 1930s: A Golden Age?**
Mon. March 14: Great Heroes and the Great Depression
Wed. March 16: Movie Selections and discussion
Fri. March 18: NO CLASS: Enjoy Spring Break

**Secondary Sources:**
**Monday:**

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10: The 1920s and 1930s: Sports Outside the Mainstream**
Mon. March 28: Sport and Ethnicity between the Wars
Wed. March 30: Separate and Unequal: Jim Crow Sports
Fri. April 1: DISCUSSION
Secondary Sources
Monday:

Friday:

Week 11: Revisiting Who Can Play? And Who Can’t Play?
Mon. April 4: A League of Their Own: Female Athletes Reclaim the Playing Field
Fri. April 8: DISCUSSION

Secondary Sources:
Monday:
Susan M. Cahn, “No Freaks, No Amazons, No Boyish Bobs,” Chicago History 1989, pages 26-41. [ER]

Wednesday:

Primary Sources:
Friday:
All-America Girls Professional Baseball League Rules of Conduct, 1940s, 3 pages [WEB]
Selections from 1939 Controversy between University of Wisconsin and University of Missouri about Jim Crow Track Meet: [WEB-PDF]

(For more background on the 1939 incident, see:
http://www.uwbadgers.com/history/cel_bhist/1939_track_article.aspx)

Week 12: 1950s and 1960s: Not Business and Usual
Mon. April 11: The Television Revolution
Fri. April 15: NO CLASS: Meetings about final paper (throughout the week)

Secondary Sources:
Monday:
Randy Roberts and James Olson, “The Roone Revolution” [Sport in America, pages 269-284].

**Wednesday:**

**Primary Sources:**

**Wednesday:**
Flood vs. Kuhn, 1972, Justice Harry Blackmun for the majority; Justice Thurgood Marshall and Justice William Douglas dissenting. [WEB]

**Week 13: 1960s and 1970s: Leveling the Playing Field?**
Mon. April 18: 1960s: Sports, Civil Rights, and the Revolt of the Black Athlete
Wed. April 20: 1970s: The Title IX Revolution
Fri. April 22: Guest Speaker

**Secondary Sources:**

**Monday:**

**Primary Documents:**

**Monday:**

**Wednesday:**


**Week 14: A Whole New Ball Game?**
Mon. April 25: Bigger Business: Sports out of Control and Out of Touch?
Wed. April 27: Nike, ESPN, and Xtreme Sports
Fri. April 29: Movie: Dogtown and Z Boys

**Secondary Sources:**

**Monday:**


**Wednesday:**


**Primary Sources:**

**Monday:**
L. Elmore, “Somebody, Save These Athletes – From Themselves,” *Street and Smith’s Sports Business Journal* Vol. 6, No. 15 (August 2003), pages 4-10. [WEB-PDF]

**Week 15: What Happened to Amateur Sports?**
Mon. May 2: “Beer and Circus:** The Future of College Athletics?
Wed. May 4: Guest Speaker to Address “Beer and Circus”
Fri. May 6: Wrapping up the Semester

**Secondary Sources**

**Monday:**

**Friday:**


**Week 16: Final Examination**
Fri. May 13: Final Exam at 2:45 p.m.
The American sporting tradition was profoundly transformed by the military's widespread incorporation of sports into the war effort, it heightened the nation's consciousness on the importance of physical education. PE begins with infancy and continues throughout life, it constituted the necessary preparation for citizenship, whether in war or peace. Muscular Christianity (solution). Englishmen needs a pure man (whole man)-discipline, manly, gentleman-responsible, physically fit, highly moral; they saw Jesus as a warrior and athlete; Great War Athletics: infused soldiers with values: Smith begins with an historical overview of intercollegiate athletics and details the evolution of individual sports -- crew, baseball, track and field, and especially football. Then, skillfully setting various sports events in their broader social and cultural contexts, Smith goes on to discuss many important issues that are still relevant today: student-faculty competition for institutional athletic control; the impact of the professional coach on big-time athletics; the false concept of amateurism in college athletics; and controversies over eligibility rules. Growing up on a dairy farm in southern Wisconsin seems far removed from writing a history of intercollegiate athletics, which began in America with two eastern institutions, Harvard and Yale. History of sport is probably as old as the existence of people as purposive beings. Sport has been a useful way for people to increase their mastery of nature and the environment. The history of sport can teach us a great deal about social changes and about the nature of sport itself. Sport seems to involve basic human skills being developed and exercised for their own sake, in parallel with being exercised for their usefulness. The native American Indians engaged in games and sports before the coming of Europeans, such as lacrosse type ball games, running, and other athletic activities. The ancient Mayan and Aztec civilizations played serious ballgames. The courts used at that time are still used today.