**History 302: Sports in America**

**MWF: 2:30-3:20**

**Spring 2018**

Professor R. Roberts

Office: University Hall 223

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Office Hours: Monday 1:30-2:15; or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:**

**Overview:**

Today sports virtually dominate American culture. From fantasy leagues and 24-hour a day news shows to business decisions and off-the-field troubles to the games themselves, sports entertain Americans at the same time as they define American culture and social norms. This course will look at the growth of the sport industry in the 20th Century. It will examine the lives and importance of Babe Ruth, Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali, and other athletes, as well as the economic, social, and medical impact of the games we watch.

**Books:**

**Roberts and Smith, *A Season in the Sun: The Rise of Mickey Mantle***

**Weekly Readings on Blackboard**

**Exams and Grading:**

Your grade in this class will be based on two exams and 10 quizzes. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will focus on lectures, readings, and representations of the sports. The quizzes will be worth a total of 100 points and be based on your readings. The dates of the exams will be announced in class. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced but will be based on the week’s readings. Updates and information will be available on Blackboard, so check frequently.

**Grading Standard**

A+ 97-100

A 93-96.9

A- 90-92.9

B+ 87-89.9

B 83-86.9

B- 80-82.9

C+ 77-79.9

C 73-76.9

C- 70-72.9

D 67-69.9

F Below 67

**Lecture Topics:**

Exam dates and Lecture Topics are subject to change. Important changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard. Lecture topics will include:

**Week of Jan. 8:**

--Introduction: Why Study Sports

--The Late-Nineteenth Century Sporting Scene

**Reading: Gorn, “Gouge and Bite, Pull Hair and Scratch: The Social Significance of Fighting in the Southern Backcountry”**

**Week of Jan. 15:**

--John L. Sullivan and Celebrity Athletes

--King Kong Kelly and the Rise of Baseball

**Reading: Roberts, “Emperors of Masculinity: John L. Sullivan, Jack Johnson, and Changing Ideas of Manhood and Race in America”**

**Week of Jan. 22:**

--Jack Johnson and Sports in Unprogressive America

--Baseball and Football in Progressive America

**Reading: Oriard, “Football Narrative and the Daily Press”**

**Rader, “’Matters Involving Honor’: Region, Race, and Rank in the Violent Life of Tyrus Raymond Cobb”**

**Week of Jan. 29:**

--The 1920s: The Age of Ruth

--The 1920s: Jack Dempsey’s America

**Reading: Roberts, “Jack Dempsey: An American Hero in the 1920s”**

**Roberts and Krzemienski, “Dixie’s Pride, Crimson Tide”**

**Week of Feb. 5:**

--Joe Louis: Hard Times Man

--Depression America: Seabiscuit and the Cardinals

**Reading: Roberts, “Red, White, Blue, and Black”**

**Week of** **Feb 12:**

**--**Army, Football, and World War II

--Baseball and Jackie Robinson

**Reading: Tygiel, “The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson”**

**Week of Feb. 19:**

--Mickey Mantle, Rocky Marciano, and Arnold Palmer

--Scandal Time: “What’s the matter with kids today?”

**Reading: Roberts and Olson, “The World Hiroshima Created”**

**Week of Feb: 26:**

--The Sport that Made the Game: 1958

**MIDTERM EXAM: MAR. 2—Lectures and Readings**

**Week of Mar. 5:**

--“It’s a Man’s World”: Masculinity in Boxing and Sports

--“A Change Is Gonna Come”: Muhammad Ali

**Reading: Roberts and Smith, “The Crusade”**

**Roberts and Smith, “Free to Be Me”**

**Week of Mar. 12: SPRING BREAK**

**Week of Mar. 19:**

--Athletes in Revolt

--“We’re Athletes, Too”: Women in Sports

**Reading: Ware, “The Making of a Sports Icon”**

**Week of Mar. 26:**

--Professional Athletes: Free Agents or Slaves?

--Russell, Chamberlain, and the Rise of the NBA”

**Reading: Goudsouzian, “Goliath’s Shadow”**

**Week of Apr. 2:**

--Olympics: From Berlin to Munich, and Beyond

--Magic, Bird, and Jordan

**Reading: Roberts and Olson, “The Shadow of Munich”**

**LaFeber, “A Century of Preparation”**

**Week of Apr. 9:**

--“Making” Champions: Better Sports Through Pharmacy

--Rocky, Sports, and the 1970s”

**Reading: Rader, “It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times”**

**Week of Apr. 16:**

--Is Car Racing a Sport?: Indy and NASCAR

**--**Ice Wars: Russia vrs. Canada

**Week of Apr. 23:**

--Sports in the Age of ESPN

--Extreme and Niche Sports

**FINAL EXAM: TBA—Lectures, Readings, and Roberts and Smith, *A Season in the Sun: The Rise of Mickey Mantle***

**Attendance and Behavior:**

I encourage everyone in the class. Attendance is required, and students who miss more than three classes will be penalized three points for every addition class they miss. I hope that everyone enjoys the class, and to ensure this I expect everyone in class to follow a few rules. Once lectures begin, turn off cell phones, put away newspapers, and avoid long discussions with others in the class. Unless you have a medical reason to use a computer, they are not to be used in class. Failure to observe these basic rules will impact your grade.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Cheating / Plagiarism**  
Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. **You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials**. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office. Please make sure that you are familiar with Purdue’s academic integrity policies: <http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php>

**Grief Absence Policy**

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). Students will be excused from classes for funeral leave and given the opportunity to complete missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student’s family.

**Students with Disabilities**

Purdue University is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity to university courses, activities, and programs for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities that substantially limit a major life activity, such as learning, walking, or seeing, may qualify for academic adjustments and/or services. If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first three weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center of any impairment/condition that may require accommodations and/or classroom modifications. To request information about academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, or services, please contact the Disability Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students, 830 Young Hall, (765) 494-1247 (V/TTY), [drc@purdue.edu](mailto:drc@purdue.edu).

**Nondiscrimination Policy Statement**

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Executive Memorandum No. D-1, which provides specific contractual rights and remedies.

**Violent Behavior Policy**

Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, violent behavior is prohibited in or on any university facility or while participating in any university activity.

**Disclaimer:**

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar.  Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.