

# HISTORY 221: CULTURAL HISTORY OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS IN AMERICA

Spring 2005

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Class Meeting: MWF 9:55-10:45  
Class Room: 1217 Humanities  
Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00

Course website: <http://mywebspace.wisc.edu/gtbond/web/221/index.htm>

## 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):**

David K. Wiggins, editor, *Sport in America: From Wicked Amusement to National Obsession* (Champaign, Illinois: Human Kinetics Press, 1995).

Elliot J. Gorn, *The Manly Art: Bare-Knuckle Prize Fighting in America* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1986)

Todd Gould, *For Gold and Glory: Charlie Wiggins and the African American Racing Car Circuit* (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2003).

**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.aafila.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 4<sup>th</sup>. A primary source analysis paper will be due in class on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

3. Mid-term examination (20%)

The Mid-term exam will take place in class on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

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 29<sup>th</sup>.

5. Final Examination (25%)

The final exam will take place on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Elliot Gorn and Michael Oriard, "Taking Sports Seriously," *Chronicle of Higher Education* Vol. 41, No. 28 (24 March 1995) page A52. [WEB-PDF]

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

Wed. January 26: Ante-Bellum Sports: The South and Sectionalism

Fri. January 28: Ante-Bellum Sports: The North

Secondary Sources:

**Monday:**

T.H. Breen "Horses and Gentlemen: The Cultural Significance of Gambling Among the Gentry of Virginia," *The William and Mary Quarterly* Vol. 34, No. 2 (April 1977), pages 239-257. [WEB-JSTOR]

**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 3, "The Age of Heroes," pages 98-123.

Chapter 4, "The Meaning of Prize Fighting," pages 129-144

**Week 3: Origins of America's Modern Sporting Culture**

Mon. January 31: Urbanization and the Rise of Modern Sports

Wed. February 2: The Strenuous Life and a "Crisis of Masculinity"

Fri. February 4: DISCUSSION/ Paper due on *Manly Art*

Secondary Sources:

**Monday:**

Melvin Adelman, "The First Modern Sport in America: Harness Racing in New York City, 1825-1870," [Sport in America, pages 95-115]

**Friday:**

Elliot J. Gorn, *The Manly Art*

Chapter 6, "Fight Like a Gentleman, You Son of a Bitch, If You Can," pages 179-206.

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]

Theodore Roosevelt, "The American Boy," *The Strenuous Life* (New York: Century Books, 1900) [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:**

Ronald Story, "The Country of the Young: The Meaning of Baseball in Early American Culture," [Sport in America, pages 121-132]

Steven M. Gelber, "Their Hands Are All Out Playing: Business and Amateur Baseball, 1845-1917," *Journal of Sport History* Vol. 11, No. 1, (1984), pages 5-27. [WEB-AAFLA]

**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:**

Matti Goksy "One Certainly Expected a Great Deal More From The Savages:' The Anthropology Days in St. Louis, 1904, and Their Aftermath" *International Journal of the History of Sport* [Great Britain] Vol. 7 No. 2 (1990), pages 297-306 [ER]

**Wednesday:**

Ronald A. Smith, "Lee Richmond, Brown University, and the Amateur-Professional Controversy in College Baseball," *New England Quarterly* Vol. 64, No. 1 (1991), pages 82-98.  
[WEB-JSTOR]

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

Primary Sources:

**Wednesday:**

Walter Camp, "Introduction," *Walter Camp's Book of College Sports* (New York: The Century Company, 1893), pages 1-11 [ER]

**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:**

Andrew Ritchie, "Bicycle Boom and Jim Crow," *Major Taylor: The Extraordinary Career of a Champion Bicycle Racer* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), pages 29-43. [ER]

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:**

David Wallace Adams, "More Than a Game: The Carlisle Indians Take to the Gridiron, 1893-1917," *Western Historical Quarterly* Vol. 32, No. 1 (2001), pages 25-53. [WEB-HCOOP]

Gerald R. Gems, "The Rise of Sport at a Jewish Settlement House: The Chicago Hebrew Institute, 1908-1921," *Sports and the American Jew* edited by Steven Reiss (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1997), pages 146-159. [ER]

**Wednesday:**

Roy Rosenszweig, "The Struggle Over Recreational Space: The Development of Park and Playgrounds," *Eight Hours For What We Will: Workers and Leisure in An Industrial City, 1870-1920* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983), pages 127-152. [ER]

**Friday:**

John R. Schleppe, "'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:**

William J. Baker, "Muscular Marxism and the Chicago Counter-Olympics of 1932," *The New American Sport History: Recent Approaches and Perspectives* edited by Steven W. Pope (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1997), pages 284-299. [ER]

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:**

Samuel O. Regalado, "Sport and Community in California's Japanese American 'Yamato' Colony, 1930-1945," [Sport in America, pages 239-250]

**Friday:**

Todd Gould, *For Gold and Glory: Charlie Wiggins and the African American Racing Car Circuit*, entire book.

**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

Wed. April 6: Breaking Barriers: Jackie Robinson, Kenny Washington, and Charlie Sifford

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:**

Marvin P. Dawkins and Graham C. Kinloch, "The Push to Desegregate Public Golf Courses" and "Barrier Breakers and White Resistance," *African-American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era* (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 200), pages 137-153. [ER]

Thomas G. Smith, "Civil Rights on the Gridiron: The Kennedy Administration and the Desegregation of the Washington Redskin," *Journal of Sport History* vol 14, no. 2 (Summer 1987), pages 189-208. [WEB-AAFLA]

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](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

Wed. April 13: 1960s and 1970s: Breaking the Monopoly – Free Agency and New Leagues

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].



Allen Gutmann, "Mediated Spectatorship" *The New American Sport History: Recent Approaches and Perspectives* edited by S.W. Pope (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1997), pages 366-385. [ER]

**Wednesday:**

John D. Bloom, "Joe Namath and Super Bowl III: An Interpretation of Style" *Journal of Sport History* Vol. 15, No. 1 (Spring 1988), pages 64-74. [WEB-AAFLA]

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:**

Clifford A. Bullock, "Fired By Conscience: The 'Black 14' Incident at the University of Wyoming and Black Protest in the Western Athletic Conference, 1968-1970," *Wyoming History Journal* Vol. 68, No. 1 (1996), pages 4-13. [ER]

Primary Documents:

**Monday:**

Harry Edwards, *Revolt of the Black Athlete* (New York: Free Press, 1969), pages xii-xvii and 38-47. [ER]

**Wednesday:**

Jessica Gavora, "Girl Power: Will Feminist Mau-Mauing Kill Title IX Reform?" *National Review Online* 31 January 2003. [WEB]

Julie Foudy, "Letter to the Title IX Commission," *USA Today* 24 February 2003, 2 pages. [WEB]

**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:**

Mark S. Rosentraub, “Ending the Great Sports Welfare System,” *Major League Losers: The Real Cost of Sports and Who’s Paying For It* [Revised Edition] (New York: Basic Books, 1999), pages 317-337. [ER]

Terry Todd, “Anabolic Steroids: The Gremlins of Sport” [Sport in America, pages 285-300]

**Wednesday:**

Robert D. Putnam *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001), pages 24-28 and 109-115. [ER]

Kristen Anderson, “Snowboarding: The Construction of Gender in an Emerging Sport,” *Journal of Sports and Social Issues* Vol. 23, No. 1 (February 1999), pages 55-79. [ER]

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:**

Murray Sperber, “College Sports Winners and Losers,” “College Sports MegaInc”, “College Sports MegaInc versus Undergraduate Education,” and “The New Three R’s,” *Beer and Circus: How Big Time College Sports is Crippling Undergraduate Education* (New York: Henry Holt, 2001), pages 23-32; 216-238 and 248-261. [ER]

**Friday:**

Jennifer Jacobson, “The Loneliest Athletes: Facing Derision in a Macho Culture, Many Gay Athletes in Team Sports Hide Their Sexuality,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 1 November 2002, 4 pages. [WEB-PDF]

Charles Springwood and C. Richard King, “‘Playing Indian:’ Why Native American Mascots Must End,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 9 November 2001, 4 pages. [WEB-PDF]

**Week 16: Final Examination**

Fri. May 13: Final Exam at 2:45 p.m.