

University of North Texas
Department of History
HIST 4261.031: History of American Sports and Society
Summer 2018
Online

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**Given that this is an online course, all communication will be handled electronically. Contact us via your UNT email to discuss any issues that might arise. We will respond within 24 hours. For the rare cases that require a more extensive conversation, we can coordinate a meeting via Skype.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

HIST 4261: The History of American Sports and Society offers a survey of the impact of sports and recreation from the colonial period to the present. 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will compare and contrast industrialization, urbanization, and commercialization to understand the development of modern athletics
- Students will investigate the evolution of the business-side and play-side of sports
- Students will compare and contrast the role of gender and race on sports and society
- Students will develop critical thinking by applying content knowledge to the evaluation of primary and secondary sources
- Students will examine how sports have become such an important part of American culture and society through social media

This course has the same content and rigor as that found in a traditional (face-to-face) classroom. The “online” course is based on a rigorous syllabus and uses the same instructional materials.

REQUIRED TEXT:

- **Elliot J. Gorn and Warren Goldstein, [*A Brief History of American Sports, 2nd Edition \(2013\)*](#)**

*If you do not have your textbook, you will find it difficult to pass the course as it requires prompt readings and attention to deadlines.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- **Twitter Account** for course project: *@untsports*

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This is not a self-paced course. Every assignment has a hard deadline. Refer often to the course schedule, assignment deadlines, and the **course calendar** to stay on task.

However, once you have completed the Zip Code Survey you will have access to all of the assignments except for the (4) exams and are **encouraged to work ahead**.

****There will be NO EXCEPTIONS** to the deadlines (given that you will have access to most assignments after completing the Zip Code Survey).

The (4) exams will only be available on their respective due dates (from 12:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.), each in a multiple-choice format covering the material for the corresponding module. You will have one attempt of 60 minutes maximum to complete each exam (once you have started the exam, it must be completed and submitted).

Rather than listening to a lecture and submitting assignments from the previous lecture as in a face-to-face class, you will:

1. access this course at your convenience
2. read the assignments in the textbook
3. select the resources best suited for your learning style to support practice and remediation
4. submit assignments electronically in accordance with the schedule and course calendar

For this course, you will read the assigned chapters and complete/submit the following:

- Weekly collaborative activities in the Discussion Board section of the course
- Two journal assignments
- Twitter project
- Research paper
- Four non-proctored, multiple choice exams (to be completed online)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Lesson 1: Chapter 1, “Colonists at Play”

Exam Date: June 15

Lesson 2: Chapter 2, “Sport Through 1860” and Chapter 3 “Gilded Age Sports”

Exam Date: June 22

Lesson 3: Chapter 4, “Football and Basketball” and Chapter 5, “Sports and Public Sphere”

Exam Date: June 29

Lesson 4: Chapter 6, “Dilemmas of Modern Sports” and Chapter 7 “Sports for a New Century”

Exam Date: July 6 (Final Exam)

EXAM INFORMATION:

Exam	Chapters Covered	References	Time Limit	Dates	Location in Blackboard
Exam 1	Ch. 1	Allowed	60 min	06/15	Module 1
Exam 2	Ch. 2-3	Allowed	60 min	06/22	Module 2
Exam 3	Ch. 4-5	Allowed	60 min	06/29	Module 3
Exam 4	Ch. 6-7	Allowed	60 min	07/06	Module 4

COURSE GRADE:

This is what you are graded on:

Component	Possible Points
Exams (4 total)	400 points
Discussions (4 total)	200 points
Research Paper	200 points
Journals (2 total)	100 points
Twitter Project (2 total)	100 points
Extra Credit Discussion	20 points
Total	1020 points

This is how your grade is determined:

Course Grade Calculation					
Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Points	900-1000	800-899	700-799	600-699	0-599

Monitor Your Progress: You can check your grades throughout the course by selecting the TOOLS > MY GRADES link in the menu. After the course ends and your instructor has submitted grades, you can view your final course grade via the University of North Texas portal.

Extra Credit and Curves: Grades will not be curved in this course. No individual extra credit will be accepted to substitute for poor grades. It is the professor's policy not to grant incompletes. My policy will be simple: do the work as described and follow the dates. Computer errors, trips, family concerns, and employment/work commitments are not viable excuses.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONSEQUENCES:

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. There is a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy. At minimum, students will receive a “0” for the assignment. The professor reserves the right to seek more extensive penalties as per UNT guidelines.

COURSE CONTRACT:

It is understood that remaining in this class constitutes an agreed to abide by the terms outlined in this syllabus and an acceptance of the requirements outlined in this document. In sum, you certify that you:

- have thoroughly read the syllabus and all relevant orientation information
- understand that this course has a fixed start and end date
- understand the delivery mode of this course.
- understand that this is not a watered-down course; you will use the same textbook and complete the same requirements as in a traditional classroom.
- agree to submit your assignments electronically or as instructed by your instructor within the accepted time frame.
- agree to the course conditions and requirements
- have read and agree to the plagiarism statement

Technical Support

Student Helpdesk:

UIT Helpdesk
Sage Hall 130
940-565-2324
helpdesk@unt.edu