

HTS 2015: History of Sports in America

M/W/F 12:05 – 12:55 – Instructional Center 205

Instructor: Dr. Johnny Smith

Email: john.smith@hts.gatech.edu

Office: G21 Old Civil Engineering Building

Office Hours: M/W 1:15-2:30 or by appointment

TA: Jonah Bea-Taylor

Email: jbeatay@gatech.edu

Course Description

In this course we will examine the American sporting experience from the colonial period through the 21st century. We will focus especially on the rise of organized sports institutions and how race, class, gender, ethnicity, and religion have shaped the relationship between sport and society. Students will learn about the histories of boxing, baseball, basketball, football, auto racing, horse racing, tennis, golf, college athletics, and the modern Olympic games. This is not a course in sports trivia. Rather, the main goal of the course is to use sports as a tool to better understand American history and how sports have shaped American culture.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand and explain the role of sport in the social construction of American culture over time
- Understand and explain how various sports became integral American institutions
- Discuss how religion, race, ethnicity, class, and gender have shaped the meaning of sports in America
- Critically examine primary and secondary historical sources

Required Readings

Jonathan Eig, *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*

Eric Allen Hall, *Arthur Ashe: Tennis and Justice in the Civil Rights Era*

***Additional course readings will be posted on T-Square**

Grading and Requirements:

Quizzes: Six (6) unannounced in-class quizzes will be given, each worth up to 10 points. I will drop your lowest quiz score, counting only your five highest scores. Quiz questions will come from lecture and the readings posted on T-Square. **If you miss a quiz or are late for a quiz you will not be allowed to schedule a make-up.**

Response Essays: Students will be required to write two response essays of about 3-4 double-spaced pages. For each essay, I will provide students with a prompt based on *Opening Day* and *Arthur Ashe*. Each response essay is worth up to 30 points. Late papers will not be accepted under any condition. The *Opening Day* essay is due on **Friday, March 6th**. The *Arthur Ashe* essay is due on **Monday, April 13th**.

Exams: Three (3) in-class **exams** will be given, each worth up to 60 points. Each exam will include a multiple-choice section. On the day of the exam students must bring two number-two pencils and their student identification card.

It is a student's responsibility to be in class for all exams. If you miss an exam then you will receive a zero. If you have a **verifiable medical emergency and a waiver from the dean of students** then I will allow you to make-up an exam. You must have documentation of an emergency; otherwise I will not grant a make-up.

Exam Schedule:

Exam One: February 6

Exam Two: March 13

Exam Three (Final Exam): May 1 (8:00 to 10:50 a.m.)

Grading Scale

A: 90-100%

B: 80 - 89%

C: 70 - 79%

D: 60 - 69%

F: 59% and below

Academic Honesty

Students in this class will be expected to abide by the Georgia Tech honor code. Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with Georgia Tech rules. For information see <http://www.honor.gatech.edu>

General Courtesy Guidelines

I expect you to respect your classmates and me at all times. You are expected to be on time for class and refrain from speaking out of turn. I will not tolerate sleeping in class, text messaging, or using your computer for any purposes other than taking notes. If you choose to use a laptop for notes, you are required to sit near the back of the room. If you engage in any kind of distracting or inappropriate behavior I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). The ODS phone number is 404-894-2563. If you plan to taking exams through ADAPTS notify me two weeks before the scheduled exam date.