COURSE OUTLINE

HISTORY 205: BASEBALL IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Prepared By: Summer Hahn
Revised By: Patrick LaPierre

School of Business and Liberal Arts
Social Sciences Department
May 2015
HIST 205---Baseball in American Society

A. TITLE: Baseball in American Society

B. COURSE NUMBER: HIST 205

C. CREDIT HOURS: 3

D. WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE: (OPTIONAL): No

E. COURSE LENGTH: 15 weeks

F. SEMESTER(S) OFFERED: Fall and Spring

G. HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, AND ACTIVITY: 3 lecture hours per week.

H. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course examines the historical impact that baseball has had on economic, social, and cultural issues in America, particularly in the twentieth century. The main themes include issues of race, class, gender, labor, and immigration and how they factor into the evolution of American society. Particular topics include, but are not limited to, the Negro Leagues, Latino and Japanese participation, women, and free-agency. Three hours of lecture per week.

I. PRE-REQUISITES/CO-COURSES: Expository Writing (ENGL 101) or Oral and Written Expression (ENGL 102); and Modern United States History (HIST 105); or permission of the instructor.

J. GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):

By the end of this course, the student will:

1. Explain the importance of professional baseball in specific areas of American History, for example racism and labor issues.

2. Compare the experiences of each minority group in professional baseball within the context of American society.

3. Examine gender relationships within professional baseball in reference to the gender relationships in eras of American History.
4. Identify the major areas where baseball and American Society coincide, for example the issue of racial stratification and how it differs between the various nationalities.

5. Articulate the factors of change in professional baseball in relationship with change in American history.

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<th>Course Objective</th>
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<td>a. Explain the importance of professional baseball in specific areas of American History, for example racism and labor issues.</td>
<td>1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>b. Compare the experiences of each minority group in professional baseball within the context of American society.</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>d. Identify the major areas where baseball and American Society coincide, for example the issue of racial stratification and how it differs between the various nationalities.</td>
<td>2. Crit. Thinking 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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<td>e. Articulate the factors of change in professional baseball in relationship with change in American history.</td>
<td>1. Communication 3. Prof. Competence</td>
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K. TEXTS: To be determined by the instructor, but may include;


L. REFERENCES:

**Books and Periodicals:**


Berlag, Gai. *Women in Baseball: The Forgotten History*, (Westport, CT: Praeger,


**Films and Documentaries:**

*A League of Their Own* (Columbia TriStar Home Video, 1992).


*Baseball in Japan* (Bowling Green, Ohio: WBGU-TV, 1994).


*Cuban Rebel Ball* (Sydney: SBS, 1995).


*Small Ball* (PBS Home Video, 2004).

*Winterball* (Cameron Park, CA: Nathan Kaufman, 1993)

M. **EQUIPMENT:** Students will be required to use sources on the internet.
Some faculty teaching the course may prefer a technology equipped classroom.

N. **GRADING METHOD** A-F
O. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA: To be determined – may include essays, quizzes, tests, final exam.

P. TOPICAL OUTLINE: See attached.

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None.
Topical Outline

HIST 205---Baseball in American Society

I. The 19th Century
   A. Origin Theories
      1. Abner Doubleday
      2. The Danish game “rounders”
      3. Various other English ball games
   B. Baseball Economics
      1. Professional Baseball in the Civil War
   C. Baseball and Social Issues
      1. Gambling
      2. Race
   D. Baseball and Popular Culture
      1. Town Teams
      2. Ballparks

II. The Gilded Age and Progressive Era
   A. Baseball Economics
      1. The Reserve Clause
      2. The National Association
      3. The National League
      4. The American League
      5. The Federal League
      6. Impact of World War I
   B. Baseball and Social Issues
      1. Race
         a. The Gentlemen’s Agreement
         b. The Negro Leagues
         c. Latin Player Classification
      2. Gender
         a. Women in Professional Baseball
      3. Gambling
         a. The Black Sox Scandal
      4. Immigration
         a. Socialization
         b. Generational shift
   C. Baseball and Popular Culture
      1. Ballparks as Cathedrals
         a. Fenway Park
         b. Wrigley Field
III. The 1920’s and 1930’s

A. Baseball and Economics
   1. The Reserve Clause
   2. The Sale of Babe Ruth
   3. Effects of the Great Depression
      a. Minor Leagues
      b. Town Teams

B. Baseball and Social Issues
   1. Race
      a. Continuing Support of the Gentlemen’s Agreement
      b. Kenesaw Mountain Landis as Commisioner
      c. Negro Leagues flourishing
   2. Gender
      a. Where do Women Fit?

C. Baseball and Popular Culture
   1. Newspapers
   2. Hero Worship
      a. Babe Ruth
   3. Music
      a. Jazz
   4. Radio

IV. 1940’s and 1950’s

A. Baseball Economics
   1. Impact of World War II
      a. Major Leagues
      b. Minor Leagues

B. Baseball and Social Issues
   1. Race
      a. Impact of World War II
      b. Negro Leagues
      c. Integration
   2. Gender
      a. The All American Girls Professional Baseball League

C. Baseball and Popular Culture
   1. Television
   2. Radio
   3. Film
V. The 1960’s and 1970’s

A. Baseball Economics
   1. Challenge to the Reserve Clause
      a. Curt Flood
   2. Marvin Miller and a Strong Player’s Union
   3. Beginnings of Free Agency
B. Baseball and Social Issues
   1. Effects of Political Unrest
      a. Counterculture
      b. Vietnam
   2. Race
      a. Integration in Management
   3. Baseball is Capitalist not Communist

VI. The 1980’s to Present

A. Baseball Economics
   1. Collusion?
   2. The Flood of Free Agency
   3. The Strike of 1981
   4. The Strike of 1994
B. Baseball and Social Issues
   1. Integration of Management
      a. Field Managers
      b. Front Office
      c. Al Campanis
   2. Increase in Player Salaries
   3. Steroids
C. Baseball and Popular Culture
   1. Memorabilia
      a. Baseball Cards
      b. Autographs
      c. Home Run Balls