

DRAFT - TO BE FINALIZED IN JANUARY 2016

HISTORY 204-302, BASEBALL AND AMERICAN HISTORY

Spring 2016, Wednesday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Instructor: Neil Lanctot, Ph.D. (pronounced "Lank-toe")

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Office hours: Wednesday before/after class or by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Through readings, videos, discussion, and written assignments, students will achieve a deeper understanding of how baseball has both shaped and been shaped by critical developments in modern American history. Throughout, we will consider the question: how does baseball help us to better understand the American experience?

REQUIRED TEXTS: (available new at Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street or you may look into getting used copies at www.bookfinder.com or similar websites):

Harold and Dorothy Seymour, *Baseball: The Early Years*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Bruce Kuklick, *To every thing a season: Shibe Park and urban Philadelphia, 1909-1976*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Robert Creamer, *Babe: The Legend Comes to Life*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992 (originally published in 1974).

Neil Lanctot, *Campy: The Two Lives of Roy Campanella*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011.

Jennifer Ring, *Stolen Bases: Why American Girls Don't Play Baseball*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2009.

Jim Bouton and Leonard Shecter (editor), *Ball Four - Twentieth Anniversary Edition*. New York: Wiley, 1990.

REQUIREMENTS: Final grades will be based upon the following:

1. **Class participation** (25%).
2. **Short response paper** (25%).
3. **Research paper** (50%).

Tentative schedule of classes:

NOTE: READINGS TO BE FINALIZED IN JANUARY 2016

January 13 **INTRODUCTION**

January 20 **The contested origins of baseball**
Readings: TBA

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Deborah Shattuck, "Women's Baseball in the 1860s - Reestablishing a Historical Memory," *Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture*, Volume 19, Number 2, Spring 2011, pp. 1-26. **(ON CANVAS)**

Video: *Base Ball Discovered*

Paper topic: **Baseball's origins owe far more to European influences than American.**

- January 27 **Baseball becomes a business (part I)**
Reading: TBA.
- February 3 **Baseball becomes a business (part II)**
Reading: Seymour, Chapters 7-18
- February 10 **Baseball becomes a business (part III)**
Reading: Seymour, Chapters 19 to end
- February 17 **Baseball and the rise of the American City**
Reading: Kuklick, *To every thing a season.*
- February 24 **Baseball and the new culture of celebrity of the 1920s**
Reading: Creamer, *Babe*, Part 1.
- March 2 Reading: Creamer, *Babe*, Part 2.
Video: *Babe Ruth*
- March 16 **Baseball and Race**
Reading: Lanctot, *Campy*, Chapters 1-10.
- March 23 Reading: Lanctot, *Campy*, Chapters 11-20.
- March 30 **Baseball and gender**
Reading: Ring, *Stolen Bases.*
- April 6 **Baseball and the changing American society of the 1960s**
Reading: Bouton, *Ball Four*, Through June 6 (diary).
- April 13 Reading: Bouton, *Ball Four*, June 7 through end of season (diary).
Video: *The Curious Case of Curt Flood* or *Fields of Fire - Sports in the 60s*
- April 27 Catch-up and discussion of final papers