

DRAFT - TO BE FINALIZED IN AUGUST 2016

HISTORY 231, RACE & ETHNICITY IN SPORT

Fall 2016, Thursday 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

University of Pennsylvania

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

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Office hours: After/before class on Thursday or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Over the last one hundred years, sport has played an important role in the African American experience. Yet the ongoing struggles faced by black athletes and entrepreneurs provide a unique window into several major themes in modern African American history. Through readings, videos, and discussion, we will consider the social, cultural, and political relevance of black participation in sport and its larger connection to the evolution of race relations in America. Requirements will include active participation in the seminar, a short response paper, and a longer research paper.

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):

Geoffrey Ward, *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*. New York: Vintage, 2006.

Lewis A. Erenberg, *The Greatest Fight of Our Generation: Louis vs. Schmeling*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Jules Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.

Excerpts from Neil Lanctot, *Negro League Baseball - The Rise and Ruin of a Black Institution*. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004 (to be provided by instructor).

Jennifer H. Lansbury, *A Spectacular Leap: Black Women Athletes in Twentieth-Century America*. Little Rock: University of Arkansas Press, 2014.

Aram Goudsouzian, *King of the Court: Bill Russell and the Basketball Revolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010.

David Remnick, *King of the World: Muhammad Ali and the Rise of an American Hero*. New York: Vintage, 1999.

REQUIREMENTS: Final grades will be based upon the following:

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

Tentative schedule of classes:

- September 1 Introduction
- September 8 Reading: Reading: Ward, *Unforgivable Blackness*, part 1
- September 15 Reading: Ward, *Unforgivable Blackness*, part 2
Video: *Unforgivable Blackness*
- September 22 Reading: Erenberg, *The Greatest Fight of Our Generation*
Video: *Joe Louis – Sports Century*
- September 29 Reading: Excerpts from Neil Lanctot, *Negro League Baseball*
Reading: Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment*, part 1
- October 13 Reading: Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment*, part 2

Video: *Breaking the Huddle - The Integration of College Football*
- October 20 Lansbury, *A Spectacular Leap*, part 1
- October 27 Lansbury, *A Spectacular Leap*, part 2
- November 3 Reading: Goudsouzian, *King of the Court*, part 1
- November 10 Reading: Goudsouzian, *King of the Court*, part 2
Video: *Fields of Fire - Sports in the 1960s*
- November 17 Reading: *King of the World*, part 1
- December 2 Reading: *King of the World*, part 2
Video: *When We Were Kings*
- December 9 Catch-up/presentation of papers