

DRAFT - TO BE FINALIZED IN AUGUST 2017

HISTORY 231, RACE & ETHNICITY IN SPORT

Fall 2017, Wednesday 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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

e-mail address: nlanctot@sas.upenn.edu

Office hours: After/before class on Wednesday or by appointment. Online conferences through Canvas also available.

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 Bookstore 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.

Neil Lanctot, *Negro League Baseball - The Rise and Ruin of a Black Institution*. Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004

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

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:

1. **Class participation** (25%)
2. **Response paper** (25%). Details to follow.
3. **Primary source-based research paper** (50%). Details to follow.

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Tentative schedule of classes:

- August 30 Introduction
- September 6 Reading: Ward, *Unforgivable Blackness*, part 1
- September 13 Reading: Ward, *Unforgivable Blackness*, part 2
Video: *Unforgivable Blackness*
- September 20 Reading: Erenberg, *The Greatest Fight of Our Generation*
Video: *Joe Louis – Sports Century*
- September 27 Reading: Neil Lanctot, *Negro League Baseball, 1933-1954*.
- October 4 Reading: Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment*, part 1
- October 11 Reading: Tygiel, *Baseball's Great Experiment*, part 2
Video: *Breaking the Huddle - The Integration of College Football*
- October 18 Lansbury, *A Spectacular Leap*, part 1
- October 25 Lansbury, *A Spectacular Leap*, part 2
- November 1 Reading: Goudsouzian, *King of the Court*, part 1
- November 8 Reading: Goudsouzian, *King of the Court*, part 2
Video: *Bill Russell – Sports Century*
- November 15 Reading: *King of the World*, part 1
- November 29 Reading: *King of the World*, part 2
Video: *When We Were Kings*
- December 6 Video: *O.J.: Made in America*
- December 13 Paper due