

HISTORY OF SPORTS SCANDALS

HIST 389-004

Spring 2016

3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Professor Chris Elzey

Location: Robinson B, rm. 203

Day: T/TH

Time: 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Office: Robinson B 226A

Email: celzey@gmu.edu (please use your MasonLive account to email)

Office Hours: T/TH 10:30-11:30 a.m. (also by appointment)

Prerequisites for the course

None

Class Contacts

1. Name and phone number/email:
2. Name and phone number/email:

The Course

How do scandals in sports impact and reveal American history? Much of our time will be devoted to considering this question. We will focus on sports scandals related to drugs and doping, game fixing, nefarious behavior in athletics, the quest for superstardom, and the peculiarly American obsession with celebrity-status. In some cases, what was once considered a scandal may no longer be so. The course examines why the definition of some scandals has changed and what that change means to a broader understanding of American history.

Outcomes

1. Define what was/is a scandal.
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of various scandals in American sports.
3. Be able to place sports scandals in a historical and cultural context.
4. Explain the ways in which Americans have changed their understanding of scandals in sports.
5. Describe the involvement of gamblers in American sports.
6. Explain the role of doping and drug use in American sports.
7. Show how sports scandals reflect and reveal American history.

Required Books

Fountain, Charles. *The Betrayal: The 1919 World Series and the Birth of Modern Baseball*.

Miller, John J. *The Big Scrum: How Teddy Roosevelt Saved Football*.

Roberts, Randy. *Papa Jack: Jack Johnson and the Era of White Hope*.

Smith, Ronald A. *Pay for Play: A History of Big-Time College Athletic Reform*.

Wenn, Stephen, et al. *Tarnished Rings: The International Olympic Committee and the Salt Lake City Bid Scandal*.

The reading assignments are to be complete the day they are assigned in the course schedule. You are also responsible for reading a handful of short articles (mostly from newspapers). I will post these on Blackboard. Please be sure you are able to access Blackboard.

Exams, Assignments, and Quizzes

There will be two exams. The first exam will be given just before Spring Break, on **March 3**. The second exam is scheduled for **May 5** (at 7:30 a.m.). Exams will consist of identifications, short answer questions, and one essay response. You will need a blue book for the exams. The exams are worth 50 percent of your grade (25 percent apiece).

You are expected to write **TWO** papers of roughly 750 words apiece. The papers will be on two of the five books we will be reading in class. I will post a question on Blackboard a week before the paper is due. Your paper will answer the questions. Deadlines for the papers are January 28, February 11, March 1, and April 5 and 26. **PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL**. I will average the scores of the papers. This score will count for 10 percent of your grade.

In addition, you are to write a longer paper of seven to eight pages. This paper will describe a sports scandal that we won't have time to discuss in class. So you will need to do some research on the topic. I will distribute a list of potential topics during the second day of class. You and two other classmates will be assigned the same topic, but you are expected to write your own paper. The paper is worth 20 percent of your grade.

In conjunction with the research paper, your group is to give a brief presentation about your topic to the class. The presentation should not be more than 15 minutes. Starting after Spring Break, we will devote part of the class to one presentation. I will assign when your group is to present. The presentation is worth 10 percent of your grade.

Lastly, there are five short quizzes. Each will be given on the day we discuss the assigned books (February 2, February 16, March 1, April 5 and 26). For the day of the quizzes, please bring paper and something to write with. In addition, I will

record attendance, which will count as a quiz. I will average the six scores, and that average will constitute 10 percent of your grade.

Grade Breakdown

Exams	50%
Paper on Sports Scandal	20%
Presentation	10%
Papers on Two Books	10%
Quizzes	10%

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B+	88-89.9	C+	78-79.9	D	60-69.9
A-	90-92.9	B	83-87.9	C	73-77.9	F	0-59.9
		B-	80-82.9	C-	70-72.9		

Missed Exams, Quizzes and Assignments

If you miss an exam or quiz and would like to take the make-up test or quiz, I will need to see a doctor's note or another form of documentation that explains why you were absent. No make-up test or quiz will be administered without a doctor's note or some other official written excuse.

I will deduct 5 points each day for late papers (that includes Saturdays and Sundays).

Electronic Devices

Please do not use cell phones, Smartphones, and other electronic devices during class. PCs and tablets are permitted, but for note taking only. If I see you using your computer for something other than note taking, you will be asked to turn it off and you will give up your right to use it in class for the remainder of the term.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to follow the university Honor Code. So do your own work. Information about the Honor Code is found at the website for the Office of Academic Integrity (<http://oai.gmu.edu>).

Students with Disabilities

For students with disabilities, accommodations are available. The webpage of the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (<http://ods.gmu.edu>) contains more information. The telephone number for ODS is: 703-993-2474. Arrangements for assistance need to be made through ODS.

Enrollment Policies

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are enrolled in the class. January 26 is the last day to add or drop the course without having to pay a fee. The final day to drop the class is February 19. You will have to pay a fee, however. The last day

for Selective Withdrawal is March 25. You can find more information at:
<http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring-2016>.

Diversity

The course follows George Mason's Diversity Statement. It says, "George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth." For more, see

<http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement>.

Schedule

Week 1: Terminology, History, and the Louisville Grays

January 19:

Introduction

Lecture/Discussion: What Constitutes a Scandal?

January 21:

No Class

Reading: Start *The Big Scrum*

Week 2: Survival: PEDs, Marathons, and Football at the Turn of the Century

January 26:

No Class

Reading: Continue *The Big Scrum*

January 28:

Lecture: No Class

Reading: Continue *The Big Scrum*

Week 3: Identity and Amateurism in the early Twentieth Century

February 2:

Lecture: Gambling, Baseball, and Jim Devlin

Reading: Continue *The Big Scrum*

February 4:

Reading: Finish *The Big Scrum*

Discussion: *The Big Scrum*

Quiz #1

Week 4: Jim Thorpe and Jack Johnson

February 9:

Lecture: Gambling...Jim Devlin (cont.); The Pain of It All: Distance Running and Drugs at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Reading: Start *Papa Jack*

February 11:

Lecture: The Pain of It All (cont.); Jim Thorpe and Amateurism

Reading: Continue *Papa Jack*

Week 5: Sports and Race in Early Twentieth Century America

February 16:

Reading: Finish *Papa Jack*

Discussion: *Papa Jack*

Quiz#2

February 18:

Lecture: Jim Thorpe (cont.); Barnstormers, Ballplayers, and the Color Line

Reading: Start *The Betrayal*

Week 6: Sports and Gender During the Interwar Years

February 23:

Lecture: Babe Didrikson, Stella Walsh, and Bill Tilden

Reading: Continue *The Betrayal*; Mark Dyreson, "The 'Physical Value' of Races and Nations: Anthropology and Athletics at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition" (on Blackboard)

February 25:

Lecture: Didrikson, Walsh, Tilden (cont.)

Reading: Continue *The Betrayal*

Week 7: The 1919 Chicago White Sox

March 1:

Reading: Finish *The Betrayal*

Discussion *The Betrayal*

Quiz #3

March 3:

Exam #1

Week 8 (SPRING BREAK)

March 8 and 10: (NO CLASS)

Week 9: Jumping Through Hoops: Gamblers, Players, and College Basketball

March 15:

Lecture: The Impurity of College Basketball: The 1951 Betting Scandal

March 17:

Lecture: The 1961 Betting Scandal

Week 10: Sports and Bodily Harm

March 22:

*Presentations #1 and #2

Lecture: The Heart-Wrenching Story of Emile Griffith

Reading: Begin *Pay for Play*

March 24:

*Presentation #3 and #4

Lecture: Emile Griffith (cont.)

Reading: Continue *Pay for Play*

Week 11: The Dark Underside of Intercollegiate Sports

March 29:

*Presentation #5

Lecture: The Fixing of Boston College Basketball

Reading: Continue *Pay for Play*

March 31:

*Presentation #6

Lecture: SMU Football: Galloping Toward Oblivion

Reading: Continue *Pay for Play*

Week 12: Baseball's Troubles

April 5:

*Presentation #7

Reading: Finish *Pay for Play*

Discussion *Pay for Play*

Quiz #4

April 7:

*Presentation #8

Lecture: Gambling and Steroids in Baseball

Week 13: Race and Sports in the 1980s and 1990s

April 12:

*Presentation #9

Lecture: The Tragedy of Len Bias

Reading: Begin *Tarnished Rings*

April 14:

*Presentation #10

Lecture: OJ

Reading: Continue *Tarnished Rings*

Week 14: The Cost of Victory: Sports and the Obsession with Winning

April 19:

*Presentation #11

Lecture: Tonya, Nancy, and Lillehammer

Reading: Continue *Tarnished Rings*

April 21:

*Presentation #12

Lecture: Danny Almonte: The Too-Old Little Leaguer

Reading: Continue *Tarnished Rings*

Week 15: Olympic Issues and Other Problems

April 26:

*Presentation #13

Reading: Finish *Tarnished Rings*

Discussion *Tarnished Rings*

Quiz #5

April 28:

*Presentation #14

Lecture/Discussion: PEDs in Sports

May 3:

Lecture/Discussion: The Meaning of Sports Scandals; Loose Ends

May 5: **Exam #2** (starts at 7:30 a.m.)