HISTORY OF SPORTS SCANDALS
HIST 389-001
Spring 2019
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Professor Chris Elzey
Location: East Building, rm. 122
Day: M/W
Time: 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Office: Robinson B 369B
Email: celzey@gmu.edu (please use your MasonLive account to email)
Office Hours: M/W 12:00-1:00 p.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. Explain the various aspects of 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**
Miller, John J. *The Big Scrum: How Teddy Roosevelt Saved Football.*

****Articles and shorter readings may also be posted on Blackboard. I will let you know if and when they are posted. Please make sure you can access Blackboard.

**Required Film**

9.79* (ESPN 30 for 30 documentary)

****The film is available at the library’s reserve desk.

The reading assignments (and film) are to be completed the day they are assigned in the course schedule.

**Exams, Assignments, and Quizzes**

There will be two exams. The first exam will be given just before Spring Break, on March 6. The second exam is scheduled for May 8 (at 10:30 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 600 words apiece. The papers will be on two of the four books we will be reading in class, or on the one required film you will watch outside of 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 February 6, February 20, March 4, and April 29, and May 6. 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 discuss a sports scandal we won’t have time to examine in class. So you will need to do some research on the topic. I will distribute a list of topics during the second day of class. You and one or two other classmates will be assigned the same topic. You are expected to write your own paper. The paper is worth 20 percent of your grade.

In conjunction with the longer paper, your group is to give a brief presentation about your topic to the class. The presentation should not be more than 20 minutes. Starting after spring break, we will devote some class time to one or two presentations. I will assign when your group is to present. The presentation is worth 10 percent of your grade.
Lastly, there are several quizzes. Four will cover the assigned books and be given on the day we discuss each of them; the other will cover the film 9.79*. There are also a few take-home quizzes. I will announce these in class and post the assignment on Blackboard. For the in-class 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 scores, and that average will constitute 10 percent of your grade.

**Grade Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Shorter Papers</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 and assignments.

**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. Please do your own work. Information about the Honor Code is found at the website for the Office of Academic Integrity (https://oai.gmu.edu).

**Students with Disabilities**

For students with disabilities, accommodations are available. The webpage of the Office of Disability Services (ODS) (https://ds.gmu.edu) contains more information. 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 29 is the last day to add the course. The final day to drop the class is February 5 (with no fee). The end of selective withdrawal is March 25. You can find more information at: http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring-2019.

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 https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement.

Schedule
Weeks 1 and 2: Terminology, History, and the Louisville Grays
January 23:
  Introduction
  Lecture/discussion: Terms and Language of Scandals
January 28:
  Lecture/discussion: Terms and Language (cont.); Baseball, Gambling, and the Louisville Grays
  Reading: Begin The Big Scrum

Weeks 2 and 3: Survival: PEDs, Marathons, and Football at the Turn of the Century
January 30:
  Lecture: Louisville Grays (cont.); The Pain of It All: Endurance Sports and Drugs at the Turn of the Twentieth Century
  Reading: Continue The Big Scrum
February 4:
  Lecture: The Pain of It All (cont.)
  Reading: Continue The Big Scrum

Weeks 3 and 4: Identity and Amateurism in the early Twentieth Century
February 6:
  Reading: Finish The Big Scrum
  **Discussion: The Big Scrum (Paper Due)**
  Quiz
February 11:
  Lecture/discussion: Jim Thorpe and Amateurism
  Reading: Begin Papa Jack
Weeks 4 and 5: Jim Thorpe and the Olympics
February 13:
Lecture: Jim Thorpe and Amateurism (cont.); “Anthropology Days” and the 1904 St. Louis Olympic Games
Reading: Continue Papa Jack
February 18:
Lecture: 1904 Olympics (cont.); Other Early Olympic Games
Reading: Continue Papa Jack

Weeks 5 and 6: Sports and Race in Early Twentieth Century America
February 20:
Reading: Finish Papa Jack
Discussion: Papa Jack (Paper Due)
Quiz
February 25:
Lecture: Barnstormers, Ballplayers, and the Color Line
Reading: Continue The Betrayal

Weeks 6 and 7: The Interwar Years
February 27:
Lecture: Babe Didrikson, Stella Walsh, and Bill Tilden
Reading: Continue The Betrayal
March 4:
Reading: Finish The Betrayal
Discussion The Betrayal (Paper Due)
Quiz

Week 7: Exam
March 6: Exam #1

Week 8 (SPRING BREAK)
March 11: (NO CLASS)
March 13: (NO CLASS)

Week 9: Jumping Through Hoops: Gamblers, Players, and College Basketball
March 18:
Lecture: The Impurity of College Basketball: The 1951 and 1961 Betting Scandals
March 20:
Lecture: The Impurity of College Basketball (cont.)
*Presentation #1
Week 10: Sports and Bodily Harm
March 25:
Lecture/activity/discussion: The Heart-Wrenching Story of Emile Griffith
*Presentation #2
March 27:
Lecture/activity/discussion: Emile Griffith (cont.)
*Presentations #3 and 4

Week 11: The Dark Underside of Intercollegiate Sports
April 1:
Lecture/activity/discussion: The Fixing of Boston College Basketball
*Presentation #5
April 3:
Lecture/activity/discussion: SMU Football: Galloping Toward Oblivion
*Presentation #6

Week 12: Baseball’s Troubles
April 8:
Lecture: Gambling and Steroids in Baseball
*Presentation #7
Quiz #4
April 10:
Lecture: Gambling and Steroids in Baseball (cont.)
*Presentation #8

Week 13: Race and Sports in the 1980s and 1990s
April 15:
Lecture/activity/discussion: The Tragedy of Len Bias
*Presentation #9
Reading: Begin Tarnished Rings
April 17:
Lecture/activity/discussion: OJ
*Presentation #10
Reading: Continue Tarnished Rings

Week 14: The Cost of Victory: Sports and the Obsession with Winning
April 22:
Lecture/activity/discussion: Tonya, Nancy, and Lillehammer
*Presentation #11
Reading: Continue Tarnished Rings
April 24:
Lecture/activity/discussion: Danny Almonte: The Too-Old Little Leaguer
*Presentation #12
Reading: Continue Tarnished Rings
**Weeks 15 and 16: Olympic Issues and Other Problems**

April 29:
- Reading: Finish *Tarnished Rings*
- **Discussion Tarnished Rings (Paper Due)**
- Quiz

May 1:
- *Presentation #13*
- Lecture/discussion: Garnering the Bid

May 6:
- *Presentation #14*
- **Discussion 9.79* (Paper Due)**
- Quiz

May 8: **Exam #2** (starts at 10:30 a.m.)