I. Introduction

The history of sport in the United States provides a record of but one dimension of American cultural development and achievement. And, like other American cultural institutions, for well over a century sport and exercise in the United States has been an important influence on the direction of physical culture in much of the greater international world, including, of course, Canada. For that reason alone, such a history should be better understood.

II. Calendar / Catalogue Course Description

Kinesiology 9061b is a basic examination of those factors related to the origin, growth, and development of the sporting movement in the U.S.A. from the 17th century to the present, with emphasis on examination and interpretation of literature relative to those roles played by the “American character” and its attendant reflections related to religion, government, population, economics, politics, crisis, technology, geography, international affairs, immigration and entrepreneurship. This course is usually offered in alternate years (odd-numbered years).

III. Course Objectives

To provide graduate students interested in the area of sports history with opportunities to:

- Explore and evaluate important aspects of the history of American sport in the context of greater American history itself;
- Become familiar with significant contributions to the body of current knowledge upon which the current history of American sport is based;
- Engage the tools and techniques of gathering, organizing, and writing one’s personal research as applied to the various dimensions of historical method;
Interest individuals in the area of sports history to the point where they might, in due time, become the future scholars of the field and carry on the work of those who all too soon will be relegated to the past.

IV. Course Requirements

70% -- A major research paper dealing with a selected aspect of American sport history. Due no later than Friday, April 24, 2015.

10% -- Individual seminar discussion leadership dealing specifically with debate and commentary on weekly reading assignments. You must be involved.

20% -- A scholarly written critical review of a major work related to the course. Due no later than Thursday, March 5, 2015.

V. Topical Course Outline

A. Introduction
B. America’s European Sport Inheritance
C. Sport in Colonial America
D. Sport in Young Republic America
E. Sport in Nineteenth Century America
F. Sport in Twentieth Century America
G. Contemporary America -- Trends / Problems / Conclusions

VI. Readings for Each Section

A. Introduction
Jan. 5 No readings

B. Catholicism vs. Protestantism: America’s European Sport Inheritance

C. In Detestation of Idleness: Sport in Colonial America


D. Pre-Modern Sporting Pastime in Revolutionary and Young Republic America


E. The Triumph of Industrialization and the Rise of Sport in 19th Century America


George Eisen and David Wiggins, eds., Ethnicity and Sport in North American Culture, 1994. *****


F.  . E. F.
F. Coming Age:  Sport in Twentieth Century America


G. Finale:  Sport in Contemporary America

H. Mar. 30  Catch-Up If Needed