

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY**

**“TO KNOW THY ELEPHANTINE NEIGHBOR”: AMERICAN SPORT HISTORY AND
ITS IMPLICATIONS IN THE RISE OF CANADIAN SPORT**

Kinesiology 9061A

Instructor: Robert K. Barney
Office: Thames Hall, Room 3197
Phone: Ext.82340 – or (519) 850-2340 (from off campus)

**FALL TERM, 2022,
WELDON LIBRARY 258
THURSDAYS, 1:30 – 4:30 PM**

E-mail: rkbarney@uwo.ca

A. 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.

B. 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 “change-agents,” including religion, government, population, economics, politics, race, crisis, technology, geography, international affairs, immigration and entrepreneurship.

C. 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, as well as to examine that history’s influential forces in the rise of Canadian sport.

Become familiar with significant contributions to the body of current knowledge upon which the 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.

D. Course Requirements

60% -- A major research paper dealing with a selected aspect of American sport history. Due no later than Friday, December 16th.

20% -- Individual seminar discussion involvement dealing specifically with debate and commentary on weekly reading assignments. You must be involved.

20% -- A scholarly written critical review of a major literary work (monograph) related to the course. Due no later than Friday, October 28th.

E. COURSE TEXT: None, Course readings listed below will be supplied to you in PDF form.

Topical Course Outline and Readings for Each Section

I. Introduction

Thursday, September 15th

No readings

II. A British Thing: Protestantism and America's European Sport Inheritance

Thursday, September 22nd

Dennis Brailsford, "Puritanism and Sport in 17th Century England,"
Stadion, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1975.

Nancy L. Struna, "The Declaration of Sports Reconsidered," *Canadian Journal of History of Sport*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 1983.

III. In Detestation of Idleness: Sport in Colonial America

Thursday, September 29th

Nancy L. Struna, "Puritans and Sport: The Irretrievable Tide of Change," *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1977.

J. Thomas Jable, "Pennsylvania's Early Blue Laws: A Quaker Experiment in Suppression of Sport and Amusements," *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1974.

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

Thursday, October 6th

Bonnie S. Ledbetter, "Sports and Games of the American Revolution," *Journal of Sport History*, V. 6, No. 3, 1979.

Nancy L. Struna, "The North South Races: American Thoroughbred Racing in Transition, 1823 to 1850," *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 1981.

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

Thursday, October 13th

John R. Betts, "The Technological Revolution and the Rise of Sport, 1850-1900," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. 40, 1953.

Frederick L. Paxson, "The Rise of Sport," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. 4, 1917.

VI. Flexing Muscles: America's Indulgence in Olympic and International Sport

Thursday, October 20th

Robert K. Barney, "Born from Dilemma: America Awakens to the Modern Olympic Games, 1901-1903," *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, Vol. I – 1992.

Gerald R. Gems, "'Sport, Colonialism, and United States Imperialism,'" *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2006.

VII. Personal Presentations of Book Reviews

Thursday, October 27th

VIII. Dollars and Profits: The Rise of American Commercialized Sport

Thursday, November 3rd

Mark Dyreson, "The Emergence of Consumer Culture and the Transformation of Physical Culture: American Sport in the 1920s," *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 16, No. 3, 1989.

IX. Money and Power: The United States and Its Olympic Father

Thursday, November 10th

Robert K. Barney, Stephen R. Wenn, and Scott G. Martyn, *Selling the Five Rings: The International Olympic Committee and the Rise of Olympic Commercialism* (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 2004).***

X. Niche Sport: The Lure of the Outdoors and the Sky Above

Thursday, November 17th

Robert K. Barney, "Aeronauts, Aerostats, and Aerostation: Sport Pastime, and Adventure Ballooning in the American West," *Journal of the West*, Vol. XII, No. 1, 1983.

Wayne Wilson, "Social Discontent and the Growth of Wilderness Sport in America, 1965 - 1974," *Quest*, Vol. 27, 1977.

XI. King Football and American Intercollegiate Sport

Thursday, November 24

Ronald A. Smith, *Sports and Freedom: The Rise of Big Time College Athletics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988).***

XII. The National Pastime: Baseball and the American Mind

Thursday, December 1st

Robert K. Barney, "Of Rails and Red Stockings: Episodes in the Expansion of the 'National Pastime' in the American West," *Journal of the West*, Vol. 17, No. 3, 1978.

Louis Moore, "'Doby Does It', Larry Doby, Race, and American Democracy in Post-World War II America," *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 42, No. 3, Fall 2015.

XIII. Wrap Up

Thursday, December 8th

*** Denotes books, rather than articles, of which there are two to read during the course. At an appropriate time a free “loan copy” will be placed in your hands. There are 16 articles to read in the course. For your convenience, a photocopy of each placed in a binder is available at nominal cost.