

African-Americans Through Sports, History 205

In the United States, a country obsessed with sports, race and athletics are inextricably linked. But it is a subject that is often difficult to discuss because of our long and deeply antagonistic racial history.

Jon Entine, author of Taboo: Why Black Athletes Dominate Sports and Why We're Afraid to Talk About It

Russell Wigginton

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:45-11:15; by appointment

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to attain a fundamental understanding of the important connection between the institution of sport and race relations in American society. Through examining books, periodicals, and films, we will study examples of the social, economical, and political implications of sports on American culture and African-Americans over time.

Readings

Entine, Jon, Taboo: Why Black Athletes Dominate Sports and Why We're Afraid to Talk About It

Payton, Walter (with Don Yeager), Never Die Easy: The Autobiography of Walter Payton

Rampersad, Arnold, Jackie Robinson: A Biography

Shropshire, Kenneth (with Kellen Winslow), In Black and White: Race and Sports in America

Wiggins, David, Glory Bound: Black Athletes in a White America

Grading

Grades will be determined from the following course requirements:

1. **45%** - Three 4-6 page "reaction" papers. Throughout the semester, students will write three essays in response to questions that arise from the readings, lectures, films, and discussions. N
2. **15%** - Attendance/Participation. Although lectures will take up a significant amount of class time, student discussions of issues raised throughout the semester will be a critical part of the clas
3. **15%** - Book Review. Each student will write a 5-7 page book review from the list handed
4. **5%** - Oral Presentation. Connected to the book review, each student will prepare a 15 minute oral rep
5. **20%** - Final Exam. A Final examination that will cover material from the entire semester. This

***Late Policy** - There will be no extensions given on any written assignments without penalty (one letter grade per day). The only exceptions will be those deemed “acceptable” by the College Handbook.

Class Assignments

The Ideology of Sport and Race

- 1/10 Introduction
- 1/12 Entine, Foreword; chaps. 1-3
- 1/15 Martin Luther King Day; No Class
- 1/17 Entine, chaps. 4-5
- 1/19 Entine, chaps.18-19
- 1/22 Entine, chap. 6; Wiggins, chap. 9
- 1/24 Wiggins, chap. 10

Blacks and Sports Pre-20th Century

- 1/26 Wiggins, chap. 1
- 1/29 Wiggins, chap. 2
- 1/31 Wiggins, chap. 3

“Nadir” in Sports

- 2/2 Rampersad, Prologue; chaps. 1-2; Entine, chap. 11
- 2/5 Rampersad, chap.3; Entine, chaps. 12-13
- 2/7 Wiggins, chap. 4
- 2/9 Rampersad, chaps. 4-5
- 2/12 Film
- 2/14 **Paper 1 Due (15%)**

Integration of Sports

2/16 Entine, chap. 16; Wiggins, chap. 5

2/19 Rampersad, chaps.6-7

2/21 Rampersad, chaps. 8-9

2/23 Film

2/26 Film

2/28 Rampersad, chaps. 10-11

3/2 **Paper #2 Due (15%)**

Sports in the Civil Rights Era

3/12 Entine, chaps.21-22

3/14 Rampersad, chap. 12

3/16 Rampersad, chaps. 13-14

3/19 Wiggins, chap. 6

3/21 Wiggins, chap. 7

3/23 Wiggins, chap. 8

3/26 Entine, chap. 17

3/28 Rampersad, chap. 15

3/30 Rampersad, chaps. 16-17

4/2 Film

4/4 **Paper #3 Due (15%)**

“Modern Era” Sports and Race

4/6 Entine, chap. 23

4/9 Payton, Foreword, Author’s Note, Cast of Characters, chaps. 1-2

- 4/11 Payton, chaps. 3-4
- 4/16 Payton, chaps. 5-12
- 4/18 Payton, chaps. 13-16
- 4/20 Payton, chaps. 17-19; Afterword
- 4/23 Wiggins, chap. 11
- 4/25 Entine, chap. 24
- 4/27 Review; catch-up
- 5/4 **Final Examination (20%); 8:30-11:00**