

**History 4464**  
**American Sports History**  
Spring 2015

**Professor:** Steve Goodson **Place and Time:** Pafford 208, TTH 3:30-4:50  
**Office:** TLC 3224 **Phone:** (678) 839-6042 **Department Phone:** (678) 839-6508  
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**Office Hours:** M-F 1:00-3:20, or by appointment.

**Course Description and Goals:** This course will examine the history of sports in America from the colonial period to the present. Our goal will be to see what we can learn from the study of sports about the society and culture of the United States. Assignments will allow students to sharpen their writing, interpretive, and research skills.

**Exams:** There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the assigned readings, from class discussions, from lectures, and from any other material (films, music, handouts, etc.) presented in class. The final exam will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only if the student provides a written doctor's excuse, and it is the student's responsibility to let me know in advance if he or she will have to miss an exam.

**Class Participation:** History is a reading-intensive discipline. Nothing is more crucial to a good historian than the ability to read carefully, thoroughly, and critically. In order to be prepared and to participate in discussions, students will need to do the required reading *in advance* of each class session. In order to encourage students to do the reading, there may be short in-class writing assignments as well as unannounced quizzes. Attendance will be taken daily and a student's attendance record will play a significant role in determining his or her final grade. Students are expected to arrive in class on time and to remain until class is ended. Inappropriate classroom behavior will *severely* damage a student's final grade. *Please* turn off cell phones and all other electronic devices before entering class!

**Paper Assignments:** Each student will be required to prepare three-to-four-page papers on the three books we will be reading this semester. In addition, each student will write an end-of-term paper (seven to nine pages). All paper assignments must be completed in order for a student to pass the class. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course. See the department's plagiarism policy at <http://www.westga.edu/~history/statementonplagiarism.pdf>

**Evaluation:** Each exam will account for 25% of the final grade, the three book papers for a total of 20%, the final paper for 20%, and class participation for 10%.

**Required Books:**

Elliot J. Gorn and Warren Goldstein, *A Brief History of American Sports*  
Elliot J. Gorn, *The Manly Art: Bareknuckle Prize Fighting in America*  
Warren St. John, *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: A Road Trip Into the Heart of Fan Mania*  
Jennifer Sey, *Chalked Up*

**Tentative Class Schedule:**

Jan. 12 – Introduction

Jan. 14 – Gorn, Preface, 3-17

Jan. 19 – Gorn, 17-30

Jan. 21 – Gorn, 30-46

Jan. 26 – Gorn, 47-64

Jan. 28 – Gorn, 64-81

Feb. 2 – Gorn, 81-97

Feb. 4 – Gorn, 98-114

Feb. 9 – *The Manly Art*

Feb. 11 – Gorn, 114-29

Feb. 16 – Gorn, 129-38

Feb. 18 – Gorn, 138-49

Feb. 23 – No Reading

Feb. 25 - **Midterm Exam**

March 1 – Gorn, 153-69

March 3 – Gorn, 169-77

March 8 – Gorn, 177-82

March 10 – *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer*

March 12-20 – Spring Break

March 22 – Gorn, 183-96

March 24 – Gorn, 197-209

March 29 – Gorn, 209-21

March 31 – Gorn, 222-36

April 5 – *Chalked Up*

April 7 – Gorn, 236-49

April 12 – Gorn, 251-263

April 14 – Gorn, 263-285

April 19 – No Reading

April 21– **Final Papers Due**

Wednesday, April 27 – **Final Exam (2:00-4:30)**