Course Title: History of American Sports

Course #: 1634

Course Description: Sports have played a major role in shaping our country. This course is designed to give students an understanding of the role sports have played in American History. Particular attention will be given to the social, economic, and political impact sports have had in the 19th and 20th centuries. Students will gain a better appreciation of how various sports have influenced/shaped our American culture from early America through modern times. Students will examine how various sports, sporting figures, and sporting events have played a role in helping shape the culture of our country.

UC/CSU Approval: UC approval pending

Grade Level: 11 and 12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 1 hour

Prerequisite: None

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: None

Course Grade Category:
- Quizzes and Tests: 20%
- Projects: 30%
- Homework and Classwork: 30%
- Final Project: 20%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Every unit will include major assessments. Major assessments will include but are not limited to the following: research papers, individual/group projects, assignments, tests, and various readings.

Unit 1: Toward a Modern Sporting Culture (1850-1870)
Learning objectives:
- Describe the early years of organized women’s sports
- Explain spectators role in advancing sporting life
- Explain the rise/growth of intercollegiate sports and team competition
• Analyze the social differences of Northern v. Southern sports during the Civil War years

Unit 2: Sport in the Gilded Age (1870-1890)
Learning objectives:
• Describe the social/economic differences between amateur and professional sports
• Explain the growing influence sports had in uniting the country
• Explain the rise of American football
• Analyze people’s sporting experience based on their race, ethnicity, and social standing

Unit 3: Emergence of Organized Sports (1890-1920)
Learning objectives:
• Explain political influences and describe its impact on various sports
• Trace the rise of baseball as America’s pastime
• Describe how the influence of sports helped improve people’s social mobility
• Identify the reasons why recreational/club sports gained popularity

Unit 4: The Age of Sports Heroes (1920-1929)
Learning objectives:
• Describe the role sports played in the cultural/social liberation of women
• Explain the economic impact due to the commercialization of sports
• Identify new technological devices’ impact on advancing sports
• Explain how religion helped the growth of youth sports
• Trace the emergence of early black sporting stars and their social influence
• Trace the growth of professional franchises and describe the social/economic changes as a result of this growth

Unit 5: Sporting Life during the Depression and WWII Years (1929-1945)
Learning objectives:
• Explain the social/economic/political impact of sports during the Great Depression
• Describe WWII’s impact on the popularity of sporting events
• Explain the various sports played in the Internment Camps
• Analyze the reasons for the rise and fall of the Women’s Baseball League

Unit 6: Sports as a Political, Social, and Economic Influence (1945-1965)
Learning objectives:
• Describe the social impact of Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali
• Explain the influence sports had on the Civil Rights Movement
• Describe the economic impact of televised sporting events
• Explain how sports were used as a political tool during the Cold War
• Trace how various social movements affected sports

Unit 7: Sports become Big Business (1965-1980)
Learning objectives:
- Trace the growth of the NFL and NBA and explain their economic/social impact
- Describe how/why the NCAA became an economic powerhouse
- Analyze the growth of women's sports and explain the impact of Title IX
- Explain how the Olympic games became a social/political phenomenon
- Analyze the impact of scientific advancements in sport
- Describe the economic influence of various labor changes/rulings on sports

Unit 8: Globalization of American Sports (1980-today)

Learning objectives:
- Explain how rising salaries have influenced societal expectations of athletes
- Describe the triumph and demise of various sport icons
- Analyze sports collectables' role in increasing the global popularity of American sports
- Identify the reasons new sports are gaining popularity in the 21st century
- Explain what they feel will be the future of sports in America