

History 311
Fall Term 2021
Tuesday/Thursday 12:00-1:15
Classroom Building 137

Prof. Sarah Deutsch
Office: 326 Classroom Building
Office hours: Thurs. 2-4 and by
appointment

Men, Women, & Sports: Topics in US Sports History

From eye-gouging to Muhammad Ali and *Girlfight*, Mia Hamm to the Superbowl, the nature of sports in the U.S. has dramatically changed. Using films, scholarly articles, essays, and documents, this course examines the shifting terrain of sports in the U.S. beginning in the 19th century, including the way sports have been tied to and expressed ideals of manhood and womanhood, race, class, and nation, and the development of sports as spectacle and enterprise.

Students will deepen their ability to analyze both sports and history, will hone their historical understanding (involving dynamics of change and stasis, context and contingency, human agency and its limits), and will strengthen their critical thinking and writing skills.

Course Requirements:

Laptops, cellphones, and other hand-held devices are not allowed in class unless the professor indicates otherwise for a particular exercise.

-Informed Participation (30%): includes attendance, contributions to class discussion informed by your own course reading and critical thinking and listening, and posts to the WordPress site as follows: each week each student in the first half of the alphabet will post on Mondays by 5:00 for Tuesday's discussion and respond to other posts on Wednesdays by 9:00 for Thursday's discussion; students in the last half of the alphabet will post on Wednesdays by 5:00 for Thursday's discussion, and respond on Mondays by 9:00 for Wednesday's discussion. These posts are **informal one to two paragraph posts on the class WordPress site tagged with the appropriate date for each class session for which there are readings or a film** giving your reactions to the reading and/or film for that session (engaging with the arguments, making connections among the readings/films and between the readings/films and other aspects of the class and events outside the class, asking questions, letting us know if the piece didn't make sense to you, etc.). (No late posts will be accepted.)

-Two short (5 page) essays (15% each): the first short essay will try to make sense of (develop an analysis of) the range of depiction and coverage of the Johnson-Jeffries fight revealed by the material from newspapers of the time posted by your fellow students (see below); the second will try to make sense of the way that other scholars have approached your research topic.

-One 15-20 page research essay (40%): the essay is on an approved topic of your choice; you must meet with me within the first four weeks of the class to discuss possible research topics. I strongly encourage you to consult the posted rubric for this assignment. Also see below—**you must find one article or document (or part of a film) to assign to your fellow students for the last four weeks of class. Finally, each Tuesday in November you must hand in four brief**

paragraphs, consisting of one paragraph on each of four additional sources on your topic. There is an option to create a web page instead of a traditional research essay—the page must make evident that an equivalent level of research has been done and convey an equivalent level of analysis. DUE IN CLASS ON 9. NOVEMBER 2021

Required readings are listed below the week they are due; they are from:

-Dave Zirin, People's History of Sports in the United States: 250 Years of Politics, Protest, People, and Play (The New Press, 2009).

-Susan Ware, Title IX: A Brief History with Documents (Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc., 2007) available at the Duke University Textbook Store

The rest of the readings are available through on-line databases accessed through the Duke University Library catalogue or on the course Sakai website.

Tues. Aug. 24 & Thurs. Aug. 26: Introduction—themes, questions, issues and discussion of Zirin's A People's History of Sports in the U.S.

Bring a paragraph on Friday 1/10 making a case for a turning point in the first half of the book—a moment or event after which the trajectory of sports history changed—and on Wednesday 1/16 a turning point in the second half.

Topic 1: Boxing

“Organized”? Sport: Making Rules, Civilizing Combat, Redefining Masculinity—Boxing in the mid-19th Century

Tues. 8/31: Reading: (**both these articles are available on databases (JSTOR or America History and Life) through the Duke Library system**): Elliott J. Gorn, “‘Gouge and Bite, Pull Hair and Scratch’: The Social Significance of Fighting in the Southern Backcountry,” American Historical Review 90 (Feb. 1985): 18-43 **AND** Elliott J. Gorn, “‘Good-Bye Boys, I Die a True American’: Homicide, Nativism, and Working-Class Culture in Antebellum New York City,” The Journal of American History 74:2 (Sept. 1987): 388-410 please print them and bring them to class

AND document: “Horace Greeley Decries the Slaughter of Boxer Thomas McCoy, 1842” on Sakai

Arena of Empire: Boxing and Race (Jack Johnson)

Thurs. 9/2: Reading: Randy Roberts, “The 1910 Jeffries-Johnson Fight and Its Impact,” in Major Problems in American Sports History, pp. 290-299 on Sakai;

AND watch the film of the fight on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzAS-wihuVI> or you can search Jack Johnson v Jim Jeffries on youtube—it's the one by DavidBumerBoxHilite (it's 11 minutes)

AND post the press (one pre-fight article and one post-fight article) from your assigned newspaper found in America's Historical Newspapers database or ProQuest Historical Newspapers

Tues. 9/7: Reading: Theresa Runstedtler, Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner: Boxing in the Shadow of the Global Color Line (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012): pp. 1-29 (introduction), 68-99 (on the film), 134-141, 255

Playing with the Boys, pp. 157-164 and

documents: “Coach Walter Camp on Sportsmanship, 1893”; “*The National Police Gazette* Indicts Wyatt Earp as Crooked Referee, 1896” from Major Problems; and Jack Johnson’s account of the fight and Booker T. Washington’s and W.E.B. DuBois’ responses, pp. 74-82 in David K. Wiggins and Patrick B. Miller, The Unlevel Playing Field: A Documentary History of the African American Experience in Sport (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003)

NB: Your first paper is due in class on Thursday 9/9.

Thursday 9/9: ARCHIVES DAY

Tues. 9/14: The Black Hope?

Reading: David Margolick, Beyond Glory: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling, and a World on the Brink (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005), pp. 5-13, 232-233, 284-285, 288-291, 296-305, 308, 333-335, 343-351 on Sakai

Jeffrey T. Sammons, Beyond the Ring: the Role of Boxing in American Society (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988), p. 113 on Durham’s response to the Louis fight on Sakai

Sports as Business and Racket I--1950s heyday of business unionism and suspicions of it—and the role of TV

Thurs. 9/16: Reading: Excerpts from Troy Rondinone, Friday Night Fights: Gaspar ‘Indio’ Ortega and the Golden Age of Television Boxing (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2013), pp. 1-7, 11-21, 36-49, 134-135, 172-186 on Sakai.

And document: “Ike Williams Testifies on the Corruption of Boxing in the Late 1940s,” pp. 401-408 in Steven A. Reiss, ed., Major Problems in American Sports History on Sakai

Tues. 9/21: Viewing *On the Waterfront* (1954)—I Could’ve Been a Contender (stream via Sakai site)

Fighting Back—Ali (vs. Joe Louis)

Thurs. 9/23: Viewing: American Experience *1964* (view online via library catalog)

Reading: Kasia Boddy, Boxing a Cultural History (London: Reaktion Books, 2008), pp. 326-338 (338-348 optional) on Sakai

Jeffrey T. Sammons, Beyond the Ring: the Role of Boxing in American Society (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988), pp. 219-225 (on Don King), 232-233 (Ali as Carter’s envoy) on Sakai

Eldridge Cleaver, “The Muhammad Ali—Patterson Fight”; and Ali interview pp. 303-306, 310-314 in David K. Wiggins and Patrick B. Miller, The Unlevel Playing Field: A Documentary History of the African American Experience in Sport (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003) on Sakai

Sports and Class—I Can Be a Contender (the decline of the working class)

Tues. 9/28: Viewing: *Rocky* (1976) (view online via library catalog)

Reading: Kasia Boddy, *Boxing a Cultural History* (London: Reaktion Books, 2008), pp. 362-366 on Sakai

Mike Silver, *The Arc of Boxing: The Rise and Decline of the Sweet Science* (Jefferson, NC & London: McFarland & Company, Publishers), pp. 124, 202-215 on Sakai

Men, Women, Boxing, Race, & Class

Thurs 9/30: Viewing *Girlfight* (2000) (view online via library catalog)

Reading: Malissa Smith, *A History of Women's Boxing* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014), pp. xv-xxii, 118, 142-143, 176, 188-190, 225, 228, 232-234, 242-244, 246 on Sakai

Kasia Boddy, *Boxing: A Cultural History* (London: Reaktion Books, 2008), pp. 369-371 on Sakai

We will divide the following two pieces so you will read either but not both:

Allen Bodner, *When Boxing was a Jewish Sport* (Albany: Excelsior Editions, SUNY Press, 2011), pp. 137-147 on Sakai

Jeffrey T. Sammons, *Beyond the Ring: the Role of Boxing in American Society* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988), pp. 248-257

FALL BREAK!!

Thurs. 10/7: Viewing: *Million Dollar Baby* (2004) (view online via library catalog)

Topic 2: Title IX

Pre-Title IX: Women, Sports and Health

Tues. 10/12: Reading: Ellen L. McDonagh and Laura Pappano, *Playing with the Boys: Why Separate is not Equal in Sports* (NY: Oxford University Press, 2008), pp. 7-17, 164-189 on Sakai

Susan K. Cahn, *Coming On Strong: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth Century Women's Sport* (NY: The Free Press, 1994), pp. 1-3

Nancy Hogshead-Makar and Andrew Zimbalist, eds., *Equal Play: Title IX and Social Change* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2007) excerpt from Cahn, pp. 9-13, on Didrickson, 31-34

Thurs. 10/14: Viewing: *Pat & Mike* (1952) stream via Sakai site

NB: 10/14 Bring laptops to do searches for secondary and primary sources.

Title IX and its Immediate Impact

Tues. 10/19: Reading: Susan Ware, Title IX: A Brief History with Documents (Longrove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc., 2007), pp. 1-12, 35-76

Susan Cahn, Coming on Strong, pp. 251-254 on Sakai

Come prepared to contribute questions for the interviews with relatives or others your mother's age and your grandmother's about their school sports experiences.

Thurs. 10/21: Reading: Ware, Title IX, pp. 12-27, 77-85

Equal Play, 140-143 on Brown U. v. Cohen on Sakai

Playing with the Boys, pp. 132-134 on Duke place-kicker 1994 and court decision (1999) p. 268 on Sakai

I will distribute the interview questionnaire for your use.

Title IX Under Fire

Tues. 10/26: Reading: Ware, Title IX, pp. 86-123, 129-131, 147-152

Equal Play, pp. 169-170 (chart), 171-177, 388 (chart), 197-217 (Tilting the Playing Field), 218-238 (critique of Tilting the Playing Field) on Sakai

And Adam S. Darowski, "For Kenny, Who Wanted to Play Women's Field Hockey," Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy 12 (2005): 153-177 on Lexis Nexis Academic via the library website databases

Post your interviews on the Wordpress site—be prepared to discuss!

Thurs. 10/28: Reading: Ware, Title IX, pp. 124-129, 131-147, 153-168

Coming on Strong, pp. 269-272 (FloJo, etc.), and epilogue, 281-314

Unlevel Playing Field, pp. 383-386, 398-400, 421-423

And Catherine Taibi, "TV Ignores Women's Sports More Now than They Did 25 Years Ago," Huffington Post, June 8, 2015. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/08/womens-sports-tv_n_7535766.html

Tues./Thurs. 11/2 & 11/4: individual meetings with Prof. Deutsch in her office (326 Classroom)
Students use the week to locate readings related to their research from which to choose a document to assign for the last four weeks of class, and two articles for their second paper.

Second Paper due November 9

Tues./Thurs.: 11/9, 11/11: readings chosen by students; discussion led by students

Tues./Thurs.: 11/16, 11/18: ditto

Tues. 11/22: ditto

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Tues./Thurs.: 11/30, 12/2: ditto