

SPMT 260

History of Sports in America

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Common Course Outline

Description

SPMT 260 – History of Sports in America: presents an overview of the development of amateur and professional athletics from the 17th century through to the 21st century and what they have become today. Students explore how sports reflected ideas about race, ethnicity, gender, class, amateurism and professionalism, international politics, and how laws and policies have evolved. Topics include the growth of specific sports from invention to today and the change in the role of the athlete from player to vehicle for social change.

Pre-requisites: KNLS 120 or permission of the program coordinator

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. define the role of sports culture as a lens to study American history;
2. examine how early history impacted the development of sports;
3. explain how modern sports history cultivated the current sports environment;
4. analyze the differences between common beliefs and sociological research of the impact on sports and individual groups;
5. examine the differences in opportunities in sports prior to and after passage of Title IX;
6. identify the main events that led to the development of modern sports;
7. describe the events that led to the current state of multiple sports;
8. summarize the role of sports in society and the value they have in national culture;
9. analyze how categories of race, class, gender, sexuality, and other factors have been constructed through sports;
10. explain the role of sports culture in society today;
11. describe the use of sports as a tool of political protest;
12. analyze the role of sports in interscholastic and intercollegiate education in the United States;
13. recognize the commercial aspect of sports in society; and
14. assess the major issues in past American experience that relate to sports, and to both the individual and collective life of a nation.

Major Topics

- I. History of Modern Sports in America
- II. Race and Gender as Related to Sports
- III. American Sports and Social Change

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- IV. Sports Heroes and Popular Culture
- V. Sports as Big Business
- VI. Implementation of Title IX
- VII. Sports in the 21st Century

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Two exams (mid-term and final)
- Two quizzes
- Two written assignments
- One oral presentation

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective in the Sports Management program.

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