

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: SOCE 200
Course Title: Baseball in American Culture

Year: 2023-2024
Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

Explores the role that major league baseball, past and present, has played in changing certain aspects of American culture. A discussion of the history of baseball through the 19th and 20th centuries is followed by coverage of how baseball has created and reflected change in American society. Topics covered include race issues, lifestyles, gender roles, fashion, language, art, literature, film, and American business. The course is intended for novices and die-hard fans of baseball, and for the purpose of developing an understanding of the prominent role the "national pastime" has played in American culture. Prerequisites: MATH 090 and RDNG 116 if required by placement testing; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 101. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Summer semester.

Course Context/Audience

This course can be used to satisfy a social science, liberal arts or unrestricted elective course requirement. It is relevant to all students as it develops knowledge related to American society as seen through the eyes of an American sport.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing: WC College level writing skills are required. See course co-requisites or pre-requisites.

Math: M2 Completed MATH 090 (if needed) - Course requires only the use of basic mathematical skills.

Reading: R4 Before taking this course, students must satisfactorily complete RDNG 116 or have assessment indicating that no reading course was required.

Course Goals

Students will develop an understanding of the prominent role that baseball has played in American culture. This course will lend credibility to the belief that baseball is a cultural icon and a major force in shaping the American psyche. Students will develop an understanding of the contribution that baseball has made to the arts (literature, film, art). Students will see the relationship between baseball and American and international business.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Baseball History	20%
Baseball in film	10%
Baseball in literature	10%
Negro Leagues	10%
Minor Leagues	10%
Business of baseball	20%
Women in baseball	10%
Baseball statistics	10%

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues.➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information.➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions.➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.	
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live.➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.	

Instructional Methods

Lecture, Discussion Group and Individual Presentations, Research Project and paper

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Book summaries	60%
Research Report and Presentation	20%
Arbitration Report and Presentation	10%
Film review	10%

Text(s)

October 1964, David Halberstam, Latest edition, © 1995 Balla.

Glory of Their Times, Lawrence Ritter, Latest edition, © 1984 Harp.

Only The Ball Was White, Robert Peterson, Latest edition, © 1992 OUP.

Breaking Into Baseball, Jean Hastings Ardell & Ila Borders, Latest edition, © 1992 SIU.

Minor Players, Major Dreams, Brett Mandell, Latest edition, © 1997 Uneb.

Bibliography

Baseball America Almanac 2004 by Gary Martin

Baseball Guide, 2004 Edition : The Ultimate 2004 Season Reference by Sporting News

Total Baseball: The Official Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball (Total Baseball, 7th ed)
by John Thorn, Pete Palmer, Michael Gershman, Matthew Silverman, Sean Lahman, Greg Spira

Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual

No resources specified

Electronic

Internet Sites

Baseball Almanac : The Official Baseball History Site

Baseball Stats 101 by Baseball Almanac

Society for American Baseball Research (SABR)

Other

Current Baseball Best Sellers

Three Nights in August by Buzz Bissinger

Juiced : Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big by Jose Canseco

Luckiest Man : The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig by Jonathan Eig

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game by Michael Lewis