“Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America had better learn baseball.”


Baseball is America’s national pastime. But it is much more than just a game. In this course we will use baseball as a case study of how law and politics function in America. The course is designed for both the baseball novice as well as the expert and we particularly welcome those who are new to the game. Why? Because the course is not really about baseball per se. Instead, we will examine how baseball has been reflective of broader legal and political issues such as gambling and drugs, race and sex discrimination, and business-labor relations and how baseball has come to be the only “business” in America with a constitutional exemption from anti-trust laws. We will explore these and other themes through readings, discussions, and films.

On-Line Course
Instructor: Artemus Ward  
E-mail: aeward@niu.edu  
Office: Zulauf Hall 405, (815) 753-7041  
Office Hours: T TH 2pm-3:30pm and by appointment.

Required Texts:


Required Lectures

There are a number of PowerPoint lectures that are required at various times over the course of the semester. The topics will vary but will be related to aspects of the course. These lectures are required material and there will be midterm and final exam questions based on them.

Recommended Texts (for your interest and enjoyment only):


**Recommended Films:**


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**Course Requirements:**

**On-Line Participation**

You are required to go on-line each week through Blackboard, and read the messages posted to the discussion board. You are also required to post in 7 different weeks of the course. Hence, making a post every other week will suffice. In these weeks you should post at least one (and not more than two) messages of your own, either responding to someone or making your own thread, about that week’s course material and/or current events that relate to the course. Do this by Sunday night at the end of each week. The participation grade will be calculated by averaging the % of quality posts you make (out of 7 weeks) with the % of posts that you read. Note, you can see the “unread posts” that you have yet to read on the main discussion board page. After you click on and read each post it will show that post as no longer “unread.” The final participation grade will be posted at the end of the course.

**Midterm Exam**

There will be one midterm exam. It will be an objective test consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions about the course material covered to that point: readings, lectures, and films. There will be 25 questions (worth 4 points each) and you will have 30 minutes maximum to complete the exam once you start. It will be available through Blackboard for a 24-hour period. Make sure you use a reliable computer to take the exam. The exam cannot be made up under any circumstances.

**Research Paper**

You are required to write a 5-6 page, double-spaced, term paper which is due at the end of the course on the date specified on the syllabus. In this paper I expect you to go beyond the course material. You can choose any paper topic you like, however
your paper must deal with an aspect that we cover in the course: the business of baseball, baseball vice (gambling and drugs), racial discrimination, or sex discrimination. The paper must include an appropriate discussion of at least four different scholarly, peer-reviewed sources such as books or articles that relate to your topic. These sources can be on-line and can be sources linked from the syllabus and/or sources you locate on your own. However, they must be in addition to any required sources listed on the syllabus. Hence you may cite and rely on any of the required course material, but your paper must include four non-required sources. They must be discussed and cited in your essay and also listed in a bibliography at the end of the paper.

While you may use any book or article, in order to earn an “A” on the paper at least four sources must be scholarly books from university presses or lengthy articles (roughly a dozen pages or more) in academic journals that contain original data and/or arguments. Toward this end I strongly recommend using JSTOR, or another scholarly database to find articles in law, economics, politics, African-American studies, women's studies, and other related areas. Note: JSTOR is NOT a source – it is a database that helps you locate potential sources. University librarians are experts in helping you locate sources and I recommend consulting with them. I also recommend that you work with the campus writing center – long before your paper is due. Papers that rely on popular sources such as newspaper articles or websites such as Wikipedia, ESPN.com, or MLB.com and contain no scholarly sources can only earn a “D” at best and will likely earn you an “F”. Of course any of these kinds of sources may be used in addition to the required scholarly sources. Note: course lectures and required readings do NOT count as sources toward this requirement. Also, failing to meet the minimum page requirement will also result in a lower grade than papers that meet the minimum page requirement.

If you are unsure whether your topic is appropriate or whether your sources count as scholarly please consult the instructor. You are also strongly encouraged to work with the NIU librarians to help you locate appropriate scholarly sources.

As with all papers, the paper for this class must be type-written or word-processed, double-spaced, with Times New Roman, 12 pt. font and one inch margins all around. Make sure that you properly attribute and cite whenever you use information from a source such as a book, article, webpage, or film. You may use any accepted citation format such a within-text-cites, footnotes, or endnotes and any accepted bibliographic style. Consult a resource such as the Chicago Style manual or similar work if you are unsure of proper citation/bibliographic formats. This is particularly crucial for internet sources.

Before you start writing this or any essay, ask yourself: What is my overall argument/thesis? Am I supporting my position with reasons and/or evidence? Am I structuring my discussion so that it is as clear and comprehensive as it can be? Have I provided examples and explanations for each argument that I advance? What are the possible counter-arguments that my critics might bring up and how would I respond
In grading your essays I will consider whether you have (a) developed a clear and thoughtful thesis, (b) supported your thesis with a well-reasoned and well-organized discussion, (c) taken into account opposing points of view, (d) demonstrated your familiarity with course materials, and (e) followed the paper requirements including length, sources, and the rules of proper grammar, spelling, and citation/bibliographic format. Note: JSTOR is not a source and should not be cited in your bibliography. It is a highly recommended search engine which allows you to locate specific sources.

Final Exam

There will be one final exam. It will be identical to the midterm in format but will only cover material listed on the syllabus after the midterm. It will be available for a 24-period on the date listed on the syllabus.

Grading System:

Final grades will be determined by the following scale:

- 93.5-100 = A
- 89.5-93.4 = A-
- 86.5-89.4 = B+
- 83.5-86.4 = B
- 79.5-83.4 = B-
- 74.5-79.4 = C+
- 69.5-74.4 = C
- 59.5-69.4 = D
- 0-59.4 = F

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>% of Total Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>On-Line Participation</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Course Policies:

1. Extracurricular Activities – It is your responsibility to notify me in advance of any activities that will disrupt your course participation. If your activities make it impossible for you to fully participate in this course, you should consider withdrawing.

2. Late Work – Anything turned in late will be marked down one-third grade for every day it is overdue. Exceptions are made only in the most extraordinary circumstances and I will require some sort of documentation to make any accommodation.

3. Cheating and Plagiarism - PLAGIARISM, SIMPLY DEFINED, IS TAKING SOMEONE ELSE’S WORDS OR IDEAS AND REPRESENTING THEM AS BEING YOUR OWN. It is specifically prohibited by University regulations, which state:

   Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university. ([Undergraduate Catalog]

4. Undergraduate Writing Awards – The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Winners are expected to attend the Department’s spring graduation ceremony where they will receive a certificate and $50.00. Papers, which can be submitted by students or faculty, must be supplied in triplicate to a department secretary by the end of February. All copies should have two cover pages – one with the student’s name and one without the student’s name. Only papers written in the previous calendar can be considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year’s competition even if the student has graduated.

5. Accessibility Statement - Northern Illinois University is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should let his or her faculty member know as soon as possible. Students who need academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability will be encouraged to contact the DRC if they have not done so already. The DRC is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 (V) or drc@niu.edu. To assist NIU in providing an accessible and inclusive environment, the following suggested accessibility statements are provided for departmental and programmatic use. Please contact a DRC staff
member with questions or concerns about regarding access for and inclusion of students with disabilities at NIU.

6. Department of Political Science Web Site – Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to http://polisci.niu.edu.

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**Course Calendar:**

**Week 1**

- Lecture: Origins and Birth of Baseball
- Reading: Abrams - “Introduction”; Ch. 1 “The Legal Process at the Birth of Baseball: John Montgomery ‘Monte’ Ward”; Ch. 2 “The Enforcement of Contracts: Napoleon ‘Nap’ Lajoie”

**Week 2**

- Lecture: Negro League Baseball
- Reading: Wilson - Introduction, Ch.1-2.

**Week 3**

- Reading: Wilson - Ch.3-4.

**Week 4**

- Lecture: Baseball Vice - Gambling
- Reading: Abrams - Ch. 8 (pp.151-171).
- Recommended Film: *Eight Men Out* (1988) 120 minutes.
Week 5

- Reading: Wilson – Ch.5-6.
  - Required Film: *The Jackie Robinson Story* (1950) 77 minutes.
    Watch the film on youtube: [http://youtu.be/gNm-UlJmKUg](http://youtu.be/gNm-UlJmKUg)
  - Recommended Film: *42* (2013) 128 minutes.

Week 6

- Lecture: Breaking the Color Barrier
- Reading: Wilson – Ch.7-8.

Week 7

- Lecture: Baseball Monopoly
- Reading:
  - Abrams: Ch. 3 “Baseball’s Antitrust Exemption: Curt Flood” (Up to p. 64 only).
  - Goldman: Ch. 3 “Just a Game”; Ch. 4 “More Than Just a Game”

Week 8

- Lecture: Women Ball Players
- Reading:
  - Recommended Film: *A League of Their Own*. 128 minutes.

**The Midterm exam will be available on-line for a 24-hour period on T March 3.**

Week 9

No Class. Spring Break.
Week 10

- Lecture: Curt Flood and the Struggle for Free Agency
- Reading:
  - Abrams: Ch. 3 “Baseball’s Antitrust Exemption: Curt Flood” (start on p. 64); Ch. 5 “The Owners and the Commissioner: Branch Rickey and Charles O. Finley.”
  - Goldman: “Preface”; Ch. 1 “The First Inning”; Ch. 2 “Your Grandfather and I”; Ch. 5 “The Trial”; Ch. 6 “The Senator from Copenhagen”; Ch. 7 “The Ex-Senator and Ex-Justice Meet the Supreme Court”; Ch. 8 “Flood Strikes Out”; “Epilogue: One Man Out.”

Week 11

- Lecture: Modern Baseball and the Struggle to Integrate
- Required Reading: Wilson – Ch.9-12.

Suggested Reading:

Week 12

- Lecture: Modern Baseball’s Antitrust Exemption
- Reading:
  - Abrams: Ch. 4 “Collective Bargaining: Marvin Miller”; Ch. 6 “Labor Arbitration and the End of the Reserve System: Andy Messersmith”; Ch. 7 “The Collusion Cases: Carlton Fisk”; Ch. 9 “Baseball’s Labor Wars of the 1990s: Sonia Sotomayor”; “Conclusion.”
Week 13

- Lecture: Baseball Vice - Drugs
- Reading:
  - Abrams: Ch. 8 (pp. 165-169 only)

Week 14

- Lecture: Women Who Run the Game
- Reading:

Week 15

- Reading: Zimbalist: Zimbalist: Ch. 4 “Profitability”; Ch. 5 “Collective Bargaining.”; Ch. 7 “What is to be Done?”
- Required Film: Moneyball (2011), 133 minutes.
- You are responsible for locating a copy of this film. It is regularly on TV and may be streamed from pay sites such as Netflix, Amazon, and Youtube.

Week 16

- Lecture: The Future of Baseball: What is to be Done?
- Recommended film: Sugar (2008), 120 minutes

Research Papers Due on Tuesday April 28th by the end of the night (midnight). Upload to SafeAssign on Blackboard.

Week 17

Final exam will be available on-line for a 24-hour period beginning on Tuesday May 7.