

PSC 269-301: SPORTS – LAW AND POLITICS
Spring Quarter 2019: Mon, Wed 11:20am - 12:50pm

Professor: Phil Meyers, J.D.

E-mail: catchthefever@gmail.com

Phone: (773) 325-2393

COURSE BACKGROUND

In this class we will examine various areas of the sports industry—both professional and amateur—and how they are affected by the law and politics. Included in our studies, are aspects of labor relations, media issues, stadium construction, marketing, finance, and sports operations, as well as collegiate topics, steroids, professional league structures, and more.

Together, our efforts will launch an intensive exploration of a business that is very much focused on the dollar—sought through the entertainment market—rather than the assumed goal of teams and leagues merely trying to win and/or bemuse fan enjoyment. As the course wears on, you will see that the on-field, court, or ice product of clubs are merely a residual in what goes on behind the scenes—the locale where sports are truly driven.

We will have a tremendous deal of fun over the next ten weeks—utilizing lectures, discussions, films and guest roundtables in enhancing the understanding of this course. I am very confident, that with your hard work, every student will find great enjoyment, while learning more than he or she would have ever thought about the sporting industry.

Just keep in mind, this is a very serious class—and will be treated as such—even though sports are typically regarded as an escape. Thus, the economic impact of athletics generates billions of dollars per year—a realization with which we will deal accordingly.

GRADING

Grades will be comprised from three sources:

- 1. Class Project:** Forty Percent (40%) of Final Grade
- 2. Final Exam:** Forty Percent (40%) of Final Grade
- 3. Class Participation and Attendance:** Twenty Percent (20%) of Final Grade

Rewards will also be implemented for excellent performance:

Top Score from each “**Project City**” (to be discussed following) will raise **Final Exam** Grade by ONE-HALF (1/2) letter. Though note, the Bonus Exam Grade is worth Five (5) points, so if a student chooses not to take the test, etc.—he or she will get a Five (5) on the Final Exam.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

1. Attendance is **mandatory**—and be on time! Grades *will* be adversely affected for multiple absences. Also, **no** audio or video taping/recording of class sessions is allowed.
2. Readings are required as assigned. Outside of the book selected, “Lords of the Realm,” works are relatively short, and picked to aid in your understanding of topics. It is not my goal to merely make you read for the sake of reading; instead, any assignments are given for a purpose. Readings are to be completed for the class they are *assigned*.
3. Class discussion is **strongly** encouraged—and graded—though I’m confident this will not be a problem.
4. Of course, **NO** cell phone or SmartPhone-type use during class—“Tweets,” texts, talking, etc.
5. What I tolerate least is someone **NOT** trying! Take pride in your work and efforts!

CLASS PROJECT

Students will effectuate an individual Class Project that involves creating a hypothetical Major League Baseball expansion franchise in one of the following three cities: New York (Brooklyn), Charlotte, or Las Vegas. Assignment of these locales will be set out and determined on the First Class Period of the Quarter.

FINAL EXAM

Material from Class lectures, discussions, guests, roundtables, films, and readings are all eligible to be covered on the Final Exam. I will try my best to provide students with scopes and/or certain topic aspects for focus as not to create any kind of overwhelming burden for studying.

PLAGIARISM

Academic Integrity is of utmost importance at DePaul University. Each student’s work product, participation, and contributions are expected to be exclusively his or her own. Cheating and Plagiarism is very serious, and will be addressed accordingly—for if a student is found in violation of any such rules, they will be addressed as set forth in the DePaul University handbook.

*** PLEASE NOTE: SYLLABUS CLASS SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF AND WHEN NECESSARY**

CLASS SCHEDULE, ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES

Monday, April 1

TOPIC: *Class Introduction* – Class Expectations, Project Assignment, and Current Events Discussion

READING: “Lords of the Realm” (LOTR): Pages 1 – 65

Wednesday, April 3

TOPIC: *National Labor Relations Act, Unionization, and Collective Bargaining*

READING: LOTR – Pages: 66 – 106; Internet –

http://mlbplayers.mlb.com/pa/pdf/cba_english.pdf (*OPTIONAL* READING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE INTEREST IN THE DOCUMENT – WE CAN DISCUSS ASPECTS; THIS IS THE ACTUAL MLB COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT. NOTE: THESE TOPICS WILL BE COVERED HEAVILY IN THE FIRST HALF THE COURSE.)

Monday, April 8

TOPIC: *Collective Bargaining* – Salary Constraints, Grievances, Revenue Sharing

READING: LOTR – Pages: 107 – 159; Internet –

http://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/18176138/mlb-owners-players-union-reach-agreement-new-5-year-labor-contract

Wednesday, April 10

TOPIC: *Collective Bargaining* – Salary Constraints, Grievances, Revenue Sharing

READING: LOTR – Pages: 160 – 209; Internet –

<http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/commentary/news/story?page=bryant/091117>

Monday, April 15

TOPIC: *Collective Bargaining* – Free Agency, Collusion, Arbitration

READING: LOTR – Pages: 210 – 244; Internet –

<http://sports.espn.go.com/mlb/news/story?id=4641979> ;

<https://www.sportsnet.ca/baseball/mlb/marcus-stroman-interested-multi-year-extension-blue-jays/>

Wednesday, April 17

TOPIC: *Collective Bargaining* – Free Agency, Collusion, Arbitration

READING: LOTR – Pages: 245 – 307

Monday, April 22

TOPIC: *League Competition* – Franchise Model v. Promotion and Relegation Model

READING: LOTR – Pages: 308 – 353; Internet – <http://www.espnfc.us/major-league-soccer/story/2998963/promotion-relegation-a-good-idea-in-the-us-down-the-road-study>

Wednesday, April 24

TOPIC: *Media and First Amendment Issues*

READING: LOTR – Pages: 354 – 414

Monday, April 29 - Discussion Period and Guest(s)

TOPIC: *Media and First Amendment Issues*

READING: LOTR – Pages: 415 – 453

Wednesday, May 1

TOPIC: *Stadiums and Related City Issues* (Lecture and Film)

FILM: “Sonicsgate”

READING: LOTR – Pages: 454 – 501; Internet – http://www.arroyoseco.org/671_chapin-web.pdf

Monday, May 6

TOPIC: *Stadiums and Related City Issues* (Lecture and Film)

FILM: “*Sonicsgate*”

READING: LOTR – Pages: 502 – 551

Wednesday, May 8

TOPIC: *Marketing, Finance, and Operations Issues*

READING: LOTR – Pages: 552 – 604

Monday, May 13

TOPIC: *Marketing, Finance, and Operations Issues*

READING: Internet – <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/eticket/story?page=091005yankeestickets>

Wednesday, May 15

TOPIC: *Collegiate Issues* – Exchange v. Exploitation

READING: Internet – <https://webbrain.com/attach?brain=E4330159-6EFE-E20E-5492-BABCFF3B2129&attach=213&type=1> ; <http://67.227.214.227/~bidsnaa/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/DI-MBB-Sport-Specific-Bid-Specifications-2019-2022.pdf>

Monday, May 20

TOPIC: *Collegiate Issues* –NCAA’s Relationship with—and treatment of Amateur Athletes

FILM: “*HBO’s Real Sports Series*”

READING: None

Wednesday, May 22

TOPIC: *Collegiate Issues* – Professional Drafts and Age/Experience Requirements

READING: Internet –

<http://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1655&context=caselrev> ; http://espn.go.com/nba/story/_/id/16237629/ten-years-nba-one-done-rule-no-less-controversial

EXPANSION BASEBALL PROJECT DUE

CLASS QUESTIONS DUE

Monday, May 27

NO CLASS: *Memorial Day*

Wednesday, May 29

TOPIC: *Collegiate Issues* – Corruption and Controversy in Amateur Athletics

FILM: “*30 for 30: Pony Excess*”

READING: Internet – <http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/22/us/unc-report-academic-fraud/> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/colleges/penn-state-should-own-its-role-in-the-sandusky-scandal/2016/05/10/41eea4ce-16b3-11e6-924d-838753295f9a_story.html?utm_term=.602f2fdf5044

Monday, June 3

TOPIC: *Collegiate Issues* – Corruption and Controversy in Amateur Athletics

FILM: “*30 for 30: Pony Excess*” (End of Movie and Discussion)

READING: None

Wednesday, June 5

TOPIC: *Question and Answer Session; Final Exam Review*

READING: None

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019 11:30 AM – 1:45 PM