

SOC-970: Baseball as American Culture

Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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Number of Graduate Semester Units: 3 units
Target Audience: K - 14th grade teachers
Course Access: <https://connect.fresno.edu>

Course Description

This course examines the game of baseball as an integral part of America culture from its origins to the present day. Participants develop an understanding of our “national pastime” and discover how the game is a reflection of America. The course evaluates culture and connects the game to the classroom curriculum units and Common Core Standards. Baseball as American Culture includes a travel option to visit the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. This course is designed for both the serious student of baseball and for the teacher who is looking for an innovative approach to connecting the game with Social Studies. Assignments have been developed to align with Common Core State Standards for Literacy and Writing in History/Social Science.

Note: Required book must be acquired separately.

Required Texts and Course Materials

Book: Tygiel, Jules. (2000). *Past Time: Baseball as History*. Oxford University Press. ISBN-0-19-514604-2. <https://www.amazon.com/Past-Time-Baseball-As-History/dp/0195146042>

Note: Students are responsible for purchasing their own textbook, analyzing the content, and applying what they learned to the course assignments. You are welcome to purchase used, e-book, or new versions to save money. You can order the book directly from the publisher or from one of several discount aggregators (for example): <https://amazon.com>

Canvas: This course will be delivered totally online. Canvas is a web-based learning management system (LMS) that provides students access to online resources, documents, videos, assignments, quizzes, forums, etc. Canvas is easy to learn and has a user-friendly interface.

Online Resources: Relevant online resources that support the course content and encourage further investigation will be available throughout the course assignments. Active hyperlinks are utilized throughout the course and will link to the appropriate information when clicked. These include videos, podcasts, worksheets, online activities, journal articles and other resources.

Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year, from the date of registration, to complete assignments. Students may complete assignments in no less than three weeks for a 3-unit course (one week per unit).

National Standards Addressed in This Course

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

(<http://www.nbpts.org/standards-five-core-propositions/>)

First published in 1989 and updated in 2016, [*What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do*](#) articulates the National Board's Five Core Propositions for teaching. The Five Core Propositions - comparable to medicine's Hippocratic Oath — set forth the profession's vision for accomplished teaching. Together, the propositions form the basis of all National Board Standards and the foundation for National Board Certification. Course assignments have been designed so students can demonstrate excellence against these professional teaching standards whenever possible.

- Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition 2: Teachers know the subject they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) (www.corestandards.org)

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

English and Language Arts Common Core Standards:

- Build upon the strength and lessons of current state standards
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills

Common Core Language Arts Standards address in this course include:

- Reading for Literature: RL, K-8, RL 9-10, RL 11-12
- Reading for Informational Text: RI K-8, RI 9-10, RI 11-12
- Writing: WK-8, W 9-10, SL11-12
- Speaking and Listening: SL L-8, L9-10, L11-12

Additional Common Core State Standards

- Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Science, Science and Technical Subjects, grades 6-12, grades 9-10, and grades 11-12
- College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing, grades 6-12, Standard 1 -10
- College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading, grades 6-12 Standard 1-10

Continuing Education Student Learning Outcomes (CE-SLO)

CE-SLO 1	Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use.
CE-SLO 2	Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
CE-SLO 3	Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.
CE-SLO 4	Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting.
CE-SLO 5	Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field.
CE-SLO 6	Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (C-SLO)

Student Learning Outcomes for This Course By the end of this course student will be able to:		National Standards Addressed*	CE-SLO Addressed**
C-SLO 1	Apply State and national history/Social Science (K-12) Standards in the classroom using the history of baseball.	NBPTS 2	CE 2,3, 5
C-SLO 2	Develop an understanding of baseball and explain the game's role in American Culture.	NBPTS 4 and 5	CE 3, 4
C-SLO 3	Describe an understanding of baseball history and explain the game's role in American culture.	NBPTS 5	CE 1,2
C-SLO 4	Identify how the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY plays a role in American culture.	NBPTS 1 and 4	CE 1,3,5
C-SLO 5	Interpret and discuss the role of an individual that makes the greatest impact on American Culture.	NBPTS 1 and 5	CE 2,3,6
C-SLO 6	Identify web-based instructional support that deals with the history and cultural impact of baseball.	NBPTS 2 and 5	CE 3
C-SLO 7	Develop a standard –specific collection of online baseball resources and a lesson plan	NBPTS 3	CE 3,5,6

	that connects the game of baseball to the Social Studies Curriculum.		
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* Please refer to the section on **National Standards Addressed in This Course**

** Please refer to the section on **Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Topics, Assignments, and Activities

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible
Welcome Module	- Welcome Video - Course Syllabus - Introduce Yourself Forum	
Module 1 – Nine Baseball Eras	- Read Instructor notes 1.1 Baseball Eras Project: Select Two Eras from baseball and write 3-5 page essay	30 pts
Module 2 – Baseball Movie Review	- Read Instructor Notes - View movie/documentary that deals with baseball 2.1 Baseball Movie Review: Write a 2–3-page reflective essay	15 pts
Module 3 – Annotated Bibliography on Baseball	3.1 Annotated Bibliography 3.2 Optional Forum on Baseball and American Culture (no points)	15 pts
Module 4 – National Baseball Hall of Fame	4.1 Hall of Fame Project 4.2 Baseball Quiz	30 pts 10 pts
Module 5 – Baseball Hall of Fame Debate	- Hall of Fame Controversy Debate Reading and Forum 5.1 Opinion Paper 5.2 Optional Baseball Survey (no points)	15 pts
Module 6 – Develop and Teach a Lesson	- Research and apply standards 6.1 Baseball Lesson Plan 6.2 Optional Forum to Share Lesson Ideas (no points)	15 pts
Module 7 – Past Time “Baseball as History” by Jules Tygiel	- Read Past Time, Baseball as History - Select three chapters 7.1 Reflective Essay: Write a 5-6 page reflective essay	30 pts
Module 8 – Key Figure in Baseball and History	- Survey 8.1 Most Influential Individual Essay: Interpret and write a 2-3 page persuasive essay on the key player in culture and the game 8.2 Optional Quiz (no points) 8.3 Optional Forum (no points)	15 pts
Module 9 – Baseball and Popular Culture	9.1 Create a Survey: Develop a Survey: Develop a survey and post on forum with a 1-2 findings presentation 9.2 Forum to Share Survey Results (no points)	15 pts
Module 10 - Observations of the Game	- Field trip to observe a game 10.1 Observations Watching Baseball Report: Write a 2-3 page report on the game	15 pts

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible
Module 11 - Baseball's Future	11.1 Reflections on the Future of Baseball: Write a 1-2 page reflective essay with predictions about the future of the game	15 pts
Module 12 – Summary and Applications	12.1 Final Reflections Summary: Write a summary of this course and insights of where it can be applied to the classroom - Post summaries onto the forum - Evaluation	15 pts
Course Wrap-up – Grading and Evaluation	- Final Reflection Forum - Course Evaluation - Course Completion Checklist - Grade Request / Transcript Request	
	TOTAL POINTS	225 points

Grading Policies, Rubrics, and Requirements for Assignments

Grading Policies

- Assignments will be graded per criteria presented in the course rubrics.
- A = 90-100% and B = 80-89%, (anything below 80% will not receive credit.)
- The discernment between an A or a B letter grade is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted (see course rubrics).
- Coursework falling below a B grade will be returned with further instructions.
- All assignments must be completed to receive a grade and are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instructions from the instructor.

Grading Rubrics

Grade	Percent	Description	Rubric
A	90-100%	Excellent	Meets all course / assignment requirements with significant evidence of subject mastery and demonstration of excellent graduate level professional development scholarship.
B	80-89%	Very Good	Adequately meets criteria for all course/assignment requirements - demonstrates subject competency with very good graduate level professional development scholarship.
NC	Below 80%	Unacceptable	Does not meet the minimum criteria for all course/assignment requirements and demonstrated little, if any, evidence of acceptable graduate level professional development scholarship.

Writing Requirements

- Superior:** Writing is clear, succinct, and reflects graduate level expectations. Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task. Maintains a consistent point of view and organizational structure. Includes relevant facts, details, and explanations.

- **Standard:** Writing is acceptable with very few mistakes in grammar and spelling. Addresses most parts of the writing task. Maintains a mostly consistent point of view and organizational structure. Includes mostly relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Sub-standard:** Writing contains noticeable mistakes in grammar and spelling. Does not address all parts of the writing task. Lacks a consistent point of view and organizational structure. May include marginally relevant facts, details, and explanations.

Lesson Plan Requirements

- **Superior:** Instructional goals and objectives clearly stated. Instructional strategies appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is clearly delineated and authentic. All materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson clearly listed.
- **Standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are stated but are not easy to understand. Some instructional strategies are appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is present. Most materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are listed.
- **Sub-standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are not stated. Learners cannot tell what is expected of them. Instructional strategies are missing or strategies used are inappropriate. Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is missing. Materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are missing.

Instructor/Student Contact Information

Throughout the course participants will be communicating with the instructor and their classmates on a regular basis using asynchronous posting forums. Students are provided with instructor contact information in the event they want to make email or phone contact. In addition, students are encouraged to email or phone the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they are submitted.

Forums

Participation is an important expectation of this course and all online courses. Online forums promote reflection and analysis while allowing students to appreciate and evaluate positions that others express. Forum postings are open to be viewed by all students in the course, so do not post sensitive or personal information about your students. While students may not be engaging with the same students throughout this course, they will be expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the forum questions whenever possible. The faculty role in the forums is that of an observer and facilitator.

Coursework Hours

Based on the Carnegie Unit standard, a unit of graduate credit measures academic credit based on the number of hours the student is engaged in learning. This includes all time spent on the course: reading the textbook, watching videos, listening to audio lessons, researching topics, writing papers, creating projects, developing lesson plans, posting to discussion boards, etc. Coursework offered for FPU Continuing Education graduate credit adheres to 45 hours per semester unit for the 900-level courses. Therefore, a student will spend approximately 135 hours on a typical 3-unit course.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation, which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made. For more information and for downloadable forms, please go to <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/disability-access-education>.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled per the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue and Handbook - <https://handbook.fresno.edu/graduate/academic-policies>

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete the course requirements, course participants will need Internet access, can send and receive email, know how to manage simple files in a word processing program, and have a basic understanding of the Internet. Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. If you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

Getting Help with Canvas: If you need help with Canvas, please contact the FPU Help Desk by phone: (559) 453-3410 or email: helpdesk@fresno.edu. Help is available Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Final Course Grade and Transcripts

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to request their final grade by accessing the form at ce.fresno.edu/grade-request. Once the instructor receives the request and posts their final grade, students will receive an email communication from the University. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted before you order your transcripts online.

University Policies and Procedures

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in the Academic Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures related to their participation in the university community. A summary of university policies may be found on the university website at <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>.

Fresno Pacific University Student Learning Outcomes (FPU-SLO)

FPU-SLO 1	Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication: Students will <i>exhibit</i> clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically <i>evaluate</i> content and delivery components.
FPU-SLO 2	Written Communication: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> proficient written communication by <i>articulating</i> a clear focus, <i>synthesizing</i> arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to <i>inform</i> and <i>persuade</i> others.
FPU-SLO 3	Content Knowledge: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
FPU-SLO 4	Reflection: Students will <i>reflect</i> on their personal and professional growth and <i>provide evidence</i> of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement.
FPU-SLO 5	Critical Thinking: Students will <i>apply</i> critical thinking competencies by <i>generating</i> probing questions, <i>recognizing</i> underlying assumptions, <i>interpreting</i> and <i>evaluating</i> relevant information, and <i>applying</i> their understandings to new situations.
FPU-SLO 6	Moral Reasoning: Students will <i>identify</i> and <i>apply</i> moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and <i>articulate</i> the norms and principles underlying a Christian worldview.
FPU-SLO 7	Service: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.
FPU-SLO 8	Cultural and Global Perspective: Students will <i>identify</i> personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to <i>evaluate</i> complex systems.
FPU-SLO 9	Quantitative Reasoning: Students will accurately <i>compute</i> calculations and symbolic operations and <i>explain</i> their use in a field of study.
FPU-SLO 10	Information Literacy: Students will <i>identify</i> information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, <i>explain</i> how that information is organized, <i>identify</i> the best sources of information for a given enquiry, <i>locate</i> and critically <i>evaluate</i> sources, and accurately and effectively <i>share</i> that information.