LABOR RELATIONS IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

37:575:310:01

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Office hours before or after class by arrangement
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FALL 2013

Monday 7:15-10:05 pm
Cook Douglas
Lecture Hall – Room 109

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Reports of touchdowns, home runs, and overtime goals by professional sports heroes are often overshadowed by stories of strikes, lockouts, and mass resignations. Some of the highest paid employees in American society and their wealthy employers have created a system of labor-relations that has failed, as often as it has worked, in serving as a mechanism to collectively establish wages and working conditions. This course will examine the history and evolution of labor-management relations in professional sports and assess the impact of professional sports on fans, the public interest, the economy and also how collegiate athletics is impacted by labor relations. Particular emphasis will be focused on the labor relations concerns of Athletic Representation and its impacts on sports.

COURSE READINGS: Excerpts of The Jungle, by Upton Sinclair; Excerpts of Eight Men Out, by Eliot Asinof (not required to be purchased), and handouts as assigned; Blue Collar Law and Basketball, by Mark Conrad; Major League Baseball’s Labor Turmoil: The Failure of the Counter Revolution, by Jeffrey S. Moorad; Creating A Win-Win Through Collective Bargaining; The NFL Salary Cap, by Adam Heller; Pay Dirt: The Business of Professional Team Sports, by James Quirk and Rodney D. Fort; The Sports Business as a Labor Market Laboratory, by Lawrence M. Kahn; When Negotiations Fail: An Analysis of Salary Arbitration and Salary Cap Systems, by Melanie Aubut; The Effect of Salary Arbitration on Major League Baseball, by Jonathan M. Conti; Football May be Ill But Don’t Blame Bosman, by William Duffy; The Business of Sports Agents, by Kenneth Shropshire and Timothy Davis; and assigned readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENT: 1) mid-term exam, 2) final exam, 3) class project, 4) attendance and class participation. Each requirement will count for 25% of a student’s final grade.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept. 9  Introductions & Course Overview

Sept. 16  Labor Relations in the U.S.

Reading: Upton Sinclair. *The Jungle* (Excerpts)

Reading: Mark Conrad. *Blue Collar Law and Basketball*

Sept. 23  Continued discussion of Labor Relations in the U.S. and the advent of collective bargaining. History of Unionization in Professional Sports

Reading: Eliot Asinof. *Eight Men Out* (Excerpts)


Sept. 30  Collective Bargaining in Pro Sports

Reading: Marvin Miller. *A Whole Different Ballgame* (Excerpts)


In class project: Salary Arbitration hearing.

Oct. 14  In class DVD and guest lecturer Author Phil Pepe

Reading: Jeffrey S. Moorad. *Major League Baseball’s Labor Turmoil: The Failure of the Counter Revolution*

Oct. 21  MID TERM EXAMINATION

Oct. 28  The Reserve Clause and The Curt Flood decision. (Guest Lecturer)

Current Topics in Labor Relations and Sports

Reading: Jonathan M. Conti. *The Effect of Salary Arbitration on Major League Baseball*

Reading: Curt Flood decision.

Nov. 4  Reading: Athlete Compensation, Quick and Fort, Pay Dirt: The Business of Professional Team Sports
Reading: Lawrence M. Kahn. The Sports Business as a Labor Market Laboratory


Nov. 11  Role of Player Agents

Reading: Kenneth Stropshire and Timothy Davis. The Business of Sports Agents.

Nov. 18  The Mike Rice case

Assigned Readings

Nov. 25  Current Issues in labor relations in sports.

Assigned Readings.

Dec. 2  Final Exam Review

Dec. 9  FINAL EXAM