Course Description:

This inter-disciplinary course draws faculty from across (and outside) the University to examine and to integrate important elements of the world of sport and competition, incl: sport, society in general and fans in particular; race and sport; legal, economic and public policy frameworks; psychological and neurological aspects of competition; the contributions of physics and material sciences to sports; and statistical measurements of performance.

Participating Faculty:

Sian Bellock, W. Clark Gilpin, Dennis Hutchinson, John Kelly, Steven Levitt, Thomas Rosenbaum, Allen Sanderson, Stephen Stigler, Roy Weiss

(Course Assistant: Ryan Dahl (rpdahl@uchicago.edu))

Individual Class Sessions: [Tue & Thr, 3:30 – 4:50 p.m., Stuart 104]

Thr, Jan 4: Introduction to the Course: Hutchinson & Sanderson

Tue, Jan 9 & Thr, Jan 11: Nation, Globalization & Baseball, John Kelly

Tue, Jan 16 & Thr., Jan 18: The Economics of Sports, Allen Sanderson

Tue, Jan 23 & Thr, Jan 25: Religion and Sport, Clark Gilpin

Tue, Jan 23, 7 p.m.: The Sports Fan, Holly Swyers, Lake Forest College

Tue, Jan 30 & Thr, Feb 1: Sports, Law and Public Policy, Dennis Hutchinson

Tue, Feb 6: In-Class Examination over Material from Weeks 1-5

Thr, Feb 8 & Tue, Feb 13: The Psychology of Competition, Sian Bellock

Thr, Feb 15: Sport and Medicine, Roy Weiss

Tue, Feb 20: Sports Betting Markets, Steve Levitt

Thr, Feb 22 & Tue, Feb 27: The Physics of Sports, Thomas Rosenbaum

Wed, Feb 28, 7 p.m.: Material Sciences, Engineering & Performance, Katherine Faber, Northwestern University

Thr, Mar 1 & Tue, Mar 6: Statistics and Sports, Stephen Stigler

Tue, Mar 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Final Examination over Material from Weeks 6-10

Course Requirements and Grading:

Closed-Book/No Notes In-Class Midterm and Final Examinations; One Written/Analytical Project; and Active Participation in Class Discussions

Required Readings:

Texts and Course Packets for Purchase in the University / Barnes & Noble Bookstore and the Law School, respectively; Materials also on Regenstein E-Reserve and/or Chalk.