**Baseball: The New York Game:** Interdisciplinary course that will trace the relationship between baseball and New York society and culture. The course will study the early history of the game and historical development and the emergence of the New York City professional teams in connection with government, culture and issues of society. The course will be taught by John Houston, Associate Dean of PCS; and Tony Morante, Director of Tours of the New York Yankees.

The first part of the course will introduce and guide the student to an understanding of the relationship between baseball and American society that emerged after the Revolutionary War and gained popularity by the mid-nineteenth century and the emergence of teams and leagues before the 20th century. The second part of the course focuses on the popularity of baseball in New York City in the 20th century within the framework of society, culture, and contemporary events.

Participation and contribution of the enrolled students in the course is a special part of the goals and aims of the course. Baseball is about memories and student stories and experiences are encouraged during the weekend schedule. The first weekend will provide an opportunity for students to share their own story or understanding about baseball.

Walt Whitman expresses the spirit of the course: “Well – it’s our game; that is the chief fact in connection with it: America’s game; it has the snap, go, fling of the American atmosphere; it belongs as much to our institutions, fits into them as significantly as our Constitution’s laws; is just as important in the sum total of our historic life.”

Eric Strohl from the Hall of Fame (Cooperstown, NY): “The United States has grown up with Baseball and the game reflects the character and attitude that explains who we are as a nation.”

**Welcome to the course for the Summer - 2017 session.** During the summer please feel free to contact the professors. Have a great summer 2017 weekend course and study session!!

**Location of Classroom – Keating Hall – Room 219**

I. **Essay I (25%)** – due on Thursday - June 2, 2017
   Pre-course assignment – please submit by email and attach a file:
   In a 4-5 page essay explain and comment on the following 2 questions:
   
   How did Baseball evolve into a National Pastime beginning in the 1800’s?
   How do you view the culture of baseball in American society?
   
   Reading and research based from your reading of articles in the Fordham Library “ARES” and other sources. Please see attached list of articles for reference and reading.

II. **Weekend #1: Course Attendance & Class Contribution/Participation (25%)**
    
    Saturday - June 10, 2017: 8:30am to 5:00pm
    Sunday - June 11, 2017: 8:30am to 5:00pm

III. **Essay II (25%)** – due on July 10, 2017 (Monday): 3-4 pages:
    Essay Topic: Summary and Personal Perspective of the 1st weekend:
    Why is Baseball “unique” in American History – what did we discuss and learn during the first weekend: please submit by email and attach a file

IV. **Weekend #2: Course Attendance & Class Contribution (25%)** – Full explanation, directions, topics, and recommendation for research will be given during the first weekend:
    
    July 29, 2017: Saturday: 8:30am to 5:00pm
    July 30, 2017: Sunday: 8:30am to 5:00pm
    Saturday – Student Presentations/Topic: July 29, 2017
    Student Presentations: student teams: 2-3 student offer a power-point “10-15 minute” report – please see topics in this syllabus and a list will be distributed to the class – “approval” by Dean Houston and Mr. Morante.

V. Structure of the Weekend days: 8:30am to 5pm; attendance required for the 2 weekends.
   Morning break at 10am - 20 minutes
   Lunch - 12:15pm to 1:15pm
   Afternoon break at 3:00pm - 20 minutes
Essay I (25%) – due on June 1, 2017 (Thursday)

Pre-course assignment – due on – Thursday - June 1, 2016

✓ The “pre-course Assignment” for our course focuses on the Historical Roots and the beginning of the game of baseball in the United States.

✓ In a 4-5 page essay explain and comment on the following 2 questions:

✓ How did Baseball evolve into a National Pastime beginning in the 1800’s? How do you view the culture of baseball in American society?

✓ The essay is due on – Thursday - June 1, 2017. Please submit the essay by sending an email to jhouston@fordham.edu; please attach a file of your essay in your email.

✓ There is no assigned book for this course – please see ARES articles below.

✓ The essay is based on your reading and research based from your reading of articles that are listed below and can be found in the Fordham Library “ARES”

1. Go to the Fordham Website: www.fordham.edu
2. Go to Library – ARES Reserves
3. “Create an Account”: with a user name and password
4. The course page password is: baseball
5. The course is easy to find with the instructor name: houston

✓ Please see the attached list of articles for your reference and reading.

✓ Please use at least 2 articles in the development and writing of your essay.


✓ Weekend #2 (25%) – Student Presentations (Saturday – July 29, 2017)

✓ Theme of the “student presentations”: Baseball in New York City in the 20th century - society, culture, and contemporary events.

✓ The final weekend of the course will provide an opportunity for the students to offer a presentation on the connection of baseball with New York City in the 20th century. This will be a 10-15 minute power-point presentation given by teams of students (2-3 students). The formation of the student teams will take place during the first weekend of the course.

There are many topics that are possible for this presentation, here are a few topics:

- beginning with the formation of professional “franchises” at the beginning of the 20th century in New York City;
- the stadiums: Polo Grounds; Yankee Stadium, Ebbets Field, Shea Stadium;
- the rivalry of the New York Teams
- personalities: John McGraw, Jacob Ruppert, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, and many other personalities from the sport of baseball and from society and government.
- Tammany Hall and politics of Baseball in New York City
- Jackie Robinson and the Dodgers owner – Branch Rickey
- the “Golden Age of Baseball – 1950’s
- Dodgers and Giants move to California
- the beginning of the New York Mets
- George Steinbrenner and the resurgence of the Yankees
- Free Agency in Baseball.

✓ July 29, 2017: Saturday: 8:30am to 5:00pm - Student Presentations:

✓ Student Presentations: student teams: 2-3 student

✓ Power-point “10-15 minute” report – please see topics listed above and other topics that will be distributed to the class during the first weekend of course.

✓ – “approval” for the topics; please contact: Dean Houston or Mr. Morante