



TEACHING U.S. HISTORY THROUGH SPORTS

July 20–21, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. CT

HUMANITIES TEXAS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR SERIES

MONDAY, JULY 20

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

“Sports Get Into Everything”: Patterns of American Sports History

This session will explore the wide intellectual appeal of sports in the United States. It focuses on distinct moments that, together, can illustrate how to employ sports as a lens into diverse themes in American history.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

“Eat Your Words!”: Sports and the Black Freedom Struggle

This session will explore the role of Black athletes in the quest for racial democracy in the United States, from Jack Johnson to Colin Kaepernick, concentrating on how sports framed debates about justice in the midst of the civil rights movement.

ARAM GOUDSOUZIAN is the Bizot Family Professor of History at the University of Memphis, where he writes and teaches about the twentieth-century United States with a focus on race, politics, and culture. He is the author of *The Men and the Moment: The Election of 1968 and the Rise of Partisan Politics in America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2019); *Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2014); *King of the Court: Bill Russell and the Basketball Revolution* (University of California Press, 2010); and *Sidney Poitier: Man, Actor, Icon* (University of North Carolina Press, 2004). He is also the co-editor of the essay collection *An Unseen Light: Black Struggles for Freedom in Memphis, Tennessee* (University of Kentucky Press, 2018) and the co-author of the graphic novel *Man on a Mission: James Meredith and the Battle of Ole Miss* (University of Arkansas Press, 2022).



Image: McNeill, Robert H., photographer. *Washington Grays Baseball players, January 9, Griffin i.e., Griffith Stadium, Washington, D.C.* Washington D.C, 1947. [9 January] Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2024634737/>.

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