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**AMERICANS AT PLAY**  
Herbert H. Lehman College  
Spring 2007

## **AMERICANS AT PLAY SYLLABUS 2007 (Revised)**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To learn basic concepts and meanings of leisure, recreation and play, in contemporary society
- 2) To develop an understanding of the dynamics, functions and benefits of leisure
- 2) To explore how one's own identity is expressed through leisure behavior
- 3) To develop an awareness and understanding of the importance of leisure in our lives
- 4) To learn about the significance of leisure "geography" as to "space and place"
- 5) To learn the role of leisure in popular culture
- 6) To gain an awareness of leisure's relationship to today's technology
- 7) To learn about the realities of "taboo" recreation
- 8) To learn of both the lack of and potential of equity in leisure

### **TEXT**

The text required for this course:

**Russel, Ruth, Pastimes, The Context of Contemporary Leisure. Champaign, Illinois: Sagamore Publishing, 2005.**

In addition to the text, handouts of related information will be provided as additional required readings for class discussions, etc.

### **ATTENDANCE**

It is the student's responsibility to **attend all classes** and to **report on time** for each class. College policies will be followed. **Both attendance and tardiness are taken into consideration for final grade determination.**

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be a variety of written assignments required of all students in addition to the reading assignments (both text and handouts). **An explanatory assignment sheet will be provided indicating the specific descriptions and requirements for all assignments – Students will be expected to follow the directions indicated on these handouts.** All assignments are to be submitted on the specified due dates. Assignments submitted late (or *not* submitted) will affect grades.

### **GRADES**

Final grades for each student will be based on the following with the corresponding percentages:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Attendance and Class Participation ...15% | Assignments...50% |
| Mid-Term Exam...15%                       | Final Exam...20%  |

**The CLASS SCHEDULE is on the reverse side of this sheet**

## CLASS SCHEDULE

The following is the anticipated schedule of classes for Americans at Play. Announcements about any changes that need to be made will be made in class by the professor.

If a student misses a class, it is **the student's responsibility** to check with a classmate or the professor prior to the next class to make sure she/he is properly prepared.

| <b><u>Class #</u></b> | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Primary Topics/Activities/Reading Assignments</u></b>       |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Class #1              | <b>Feb. 1</b>      | Introduction, Exercises, Review Syllabus, etc.                    |  |
| Class #2              | <b>Feb. 8</b>      | Meanings and more – Leisure, Recreation, Play                     | Text pages 30-34 and Additional Readings #1 and #2 |
|                       | <b>Feb. 15</b>     | No class today – Classes follow a Monday schedule                 |  |
| Class #3              | <b>Feb. 22</b>     | Enjoying - Fun, Freedom, Happiness, Pleasure, etc.                | Chapter 2 (“Barriers” Assignment due)              |
| Class #4              | <b>March 1</b>     | Leisure Dynamics, Functions, Benefits and Liabilities             | Additional Reading #2                              |
| Class #5              | <b>March 8</b>     | Leisure Space and Place   | Chapter 6 (Periodical Assignment # 1 due)          |
| Class #6              | <b>March 15</b>    | Popular Culture   | Chapter 7  |
| Class #7              | <b>March 22</b>    | “Catch-up”, Special Activity and Mid-term review                  |  |
| Class #8              | <b>March 29</b>    | Mid-term Exam   |  |
|                       | <b>April 5</b>     | No class today – Spring Recess                                    |  |
| Class #9              | <b>April 12</b>    | Leisure and Technology  | Chapter 8 (Interview Assignment due)               |
| Class #10             | <b>April 19</b>    | “ <u>Un</u> wholesome” Leisure?                                   | Chapter 9  |
| Class #11             | <b>April 26</b>    | Leisure Equity?   | Chapter 13 (Periodical Assignment # 2 due)         |
| Class #12             | <b>May 3</b>       | Readings/Discussion – Misc. Leisure, Recreation and Play Handouts |  |
| Class #13             | <b>May 10</b>      | The Future: Leisure, Recreation and Play                          |  |
| Class #14             | <b>May 17</b>      | “Catch-up”, Special Activity and Final review                     | Leisure Philosophy Assignment due                  |
| Class #15             | <b>May 24</b>      | Final Exam  |  |