COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Baseball as a Road to God...Seeing Beyond the Game

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Barry Ebert
Barry Ebert is an Associate Minister and Youth Director at Mile Hi Church in Lakewood. He spends a lot of his time teaching parenting workshops, and adult classes on various spiritual topics. He is also a serious baseball fan. He is married with two grown sons and the family goes to a game together whenever possible.

Course Times: Thursdays 9:30-11:30 (Sept 19-October 10, 2019)

Course Location: Ruffatto Hall, Room 234

Course Description:
This will be a great class to do in the fall as the playoffs are heating up. The course is based on a book by John Sexton, former President of NYU, avid baseball fan and student of religion. I fell in love with the concepts in this book because they speak of the human spirit and what stirs our soul. We’ll take three innings a week and then dive into the magic of October baseball and all the memories that are alive there.

Session #1 – Overview of the concept of how baseball and religion have numerous parallels, diving in with the author’s story and then thoughts on the first three innings of the journey: sacred space and time, faith and doubt.

Session #2 – The next three innings are about conversion, miracles, blessings and curses. Many current Rockies fans went through a conversion process when our major league team arrived 25 years ago. Some are still on the fence or root for their old team and the home team. Some stick with the team of their grandfather. We are surrounded by miracles all the time. It’s all about reminding ourselves to slow down and look.

Session #3 – The final three innings cover saints and sinners, community, nostalgia and the myth of the eternal return. Baseball is all about going home, and we are on that journey as well.

Baseball builds community as we can all see in Downtown Denver. There were many schemes over the years to revitalize lower downtown. Coors Field and the Rockies got the ball rolling for good. Over the years, baseball has helped build many great communities and community makes us feel included.

Session #4 – We’ll dig into the magic of October baseball, its’ rich history, and how our sacred seasons mark the journey through our life.

Recommended Books or Materials:
Baseball As A Road to God...Seeing Beyond the Game by John Sexton