

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism
SPMT 440-002
Global Perspectives in Sport (3 credit hours)
Spring 2011

DAY/TIME:	F 10:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	LOCATION:	IN 207
PROFESSOR:	Chris Elzey	EMAIL ADDRESS:	celzey@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	TBA	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-2098
OFFICE HOURS:	F 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

PREREQUISITES

SPMT 201 and PHED 200, and sixty hours of undergraduate study, or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The university catalogue states: SPMT 440 “is an interdisciplinary examination of sport as a global phenomenon. Historical, cultural, economic, and governance perspectives are considered.”

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze the history and cultural relevance of international sports
2. Examine the role that international sports has played in world politics
3. Examine the role that world politics has played in international sports
4. Explain the history, organization, and economics of popular international sporting events and institutions
5. Explore the social and historical significance of global sports heroes
6. Probe the historical and cultural significance of international sports scandals, particularly ability-improving drugs and international athletics
7. Explore the globalization of sport and gauge the impact of it on international politics and cultures around the world
8. Examine the ways in which international sport is managed and marketed
9. Analyze the cultural impact sport has played in different nations (first-world and developing)
10. Examine various international athletic bodies and their governance of global sports, amateur as well as professional
11. Research and write a paper on a topic relating to sports in a modern, global setting

COURSE OVERVIEW

SPMT 440 explores the global sporting experience from antiquity (the ancient Olympic Games) to the present. Topics include the formation of modern sports on a global scale, sport and colonialism, the origins and evolution of such worldwide sporting events as the Olympic Games and the World Cup, the political use of sport, the historical and cultural significance of global sports heroes, the impact of globalization on sports, the marketing of international sports, the governance of international sport, drugs and international sports, and sports and the developing world. Study of these topics will be viewed through the lens of culture/society/history/politics. A variety of pedagogical methods will be used, including lecture, class discussion, student presentations, as well as screening videos/DVDs. Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussion. Make-up exams require a doctor’s note or some other form of valid documentation.

REQUIRED READINGS

Guttman, Allen. *Games and Empires*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995; 1994.

Foer, Franklin. *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization*. New York. Harpers Perennial, 2005, 2004.

Arkush, Michael. *The Fight of the Century: Ali vs. Frazier March 8, 1971*. Hoboken, NJ. John Wiley and Sons, 2007.

Other readings assigned as warranted.

ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS AND EVALUATION

There are two exams—a midterm and a final. Each counts for 25 percent of your final grade. In addition, you are to write a research paper (15-20 pages, double spaced). The topic is your choice. But you must submit a proposal that includes possible sources before beginning the paper. The proposal should be no more than two pages. The paper is worth 25 percent of your final grade. At the end of the semester, you are to present your paper to the class. The presentation should last no longer than 20 minutes. It counts for 10 percent of your grade. Class participation and three assignments count for the final 15 percent of your grade. Two of the assignments, covering the first two books, consist of chapter outlines. The third assignment is an argumentative essay regarding international sport and drugs. Regarding participation, you are expected to come to class having done the reading and prepared to contribute to class discussion for that day.

	% of Grade
Assignments and Exams	
Exams	
#1 Midterm	25
#2 Final	25
Research paper	25
Presentation	10
Participation and assignments	15
TOTAL	100

Grading Scale

A = 94 – 100	B+ = 88 – 89	C+ = 78 – 79	D = 60 – 69
A- = 90 – 93	B = 84 – 87	C = 74 – 77	F = 0 – 59
	B- = 80 – 83	C- = 70 – 73	

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

January 28: Introduction; history of modern sports (start Guttman, *Games and Empires*)

February 4: History of modern sports (cont.); international sport as cultural agent

February 11: Sports and colonialism; discussion of Guttman, *Games and Empire*; **assignment due**

February 18: Early twentieth-century European sport; the Olympic Games: origins and evolution; **proposals due**

February 25: The Olympic Games (cont.); The Olympics of the Nazis

March 4: The Olympics of the Nazis (cont.); watch *Olympia* and *The Fight*

March 11: **Exam**; (start Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*)

March 18: No class

March 25: Cold War sports; watch *Doping for Gold*

April 1: Sport and the developing world; discussion of Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*; **assignment due**

April 8: The globalization of sport; international marketing of sport (start Arkush, *The Fight of the Century*)

April 15: Commercialism and sports; **assignment due (international sport and drugs)**

April 22: Global sports heroes; discussion of Arkush, *The Fight of the Century*; watch *When We Were Kings*

April 29: Governance of international sport; **presentations**

May 6: **Presentations (research papers due)**

May 13: **Final exam (10:30-1:15)**



- ❖ All students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#Anchor12>]
- ❖ University policy states that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the professor
- ❖ Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform the instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See www.gmu.edu/student/drc]
- ❖ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>