SPMT 323 AMERICA AND THE MODERN OLYMPICS
Spring 2011

DAY/TIME: M W 9:00 – 10:15am
PROFESSOR: Professor John Naurigh
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                   TH 12-1pm
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PREREQUISITES
None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the role played by the United States in the modern Olympic movement. The primary focus is on the United States’ relationship with the modern Olympics from the earliest days of the Games up through the Cold War period and beyond.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
1. Demonstrate and understanding of the history of the Modern Olympics and American involvement.
2. Present analytical work highlighting the key historical, sociological, political and economic issues in the Olympics.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the changing parameters of US sport as reflected in Olympic participation.
4. Present evidence of critical examination of Olympism and the IOC as ideology and organization.

COURSE OVERVIEW
This course will follow the history of the Modern Olympics from the first modern Games in 1896 to the present with particular reference to American involvement in the Olympics and in Olympic related political, economic, social and ethical issues.

Students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code. You are expected to attend all class sessions, actively participate in class discussions, complete in and out of class exercises and fulfill all assignments. Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the specified date due or no credit will be given.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Other readings will be from journal articles available via Mason Libraries electronic journals collection.

VISUAL MATERIAL:
Chariots of Fire
Doping for Gold
Jesse Owens Returns to Berlin
Miracle
Olympia
The First Olympics: Athens 1896

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION:
Topic Reports: 6 x 12 points each (average length 3pp each)
Discussions: 10 points (Verbal or one page written)
Final Exam: 18 points

Grading Scale
[This section MUST be included and reflect the current GMU undergraduate or graduate +/- grading scale]
A = 94 - 100
A- = 90 - 93
B+ = 88 - 89
B = 84 - 87
B- = 80 - 83
C+ = 78 - 79
C = 74 - 77
C- = 70 - 73
D = 60 - 69
F = 0 - 59

DUE DATES:
Topics papers 1-3 March 9; Topic papers 4-6 April 27; Exam Unit; Final Exam Date

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
Topic One: What are the Olympics and Why Study Them?

Topic Two: The Emergence of Modern Sport and the Invention of the Modern Olympics

Topic Three: Race, Gender, and Imperialism: Areas of Olympic Exclusion

Topic Four: America and the Age of Olympic "Innocence"
Film Material: Chariots of Fire

Topic Five: Emerging Commercialism, Politics and Tensions in the Olympics
Senn, Chapters xx-xx.

Topic Six: Power, Protest and the Olympics: The Cold War Era
Reading, Senn, Chapters xx-xx; Bass, Chapters xx-xx.
Film Material: Doping for Gold; Miracle

Topic Seven: From 1984 Onwards: The Olympics in the Age of Mega-Events
Film material: Lords of the Rings
Table must be included

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/].

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See http://ods.gmu.edu/].

- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html].

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See http://caps.gmu.edu/].

- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/].

- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See http://rht.gmu.edu].

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