

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

SPMT 323 AMERICA AND THE MODERN OLYMPICS
Spring 2011

DAY/TIME:	M W 9:00 – 10:45am	LOCATION:	Robinson A210
PROFESSOR:	Professor John Nauright	EMAIL ADDRESS:	jnaurigh@gmu.edu
(May read INSTRUCTOR)			
OFFICE LOCATION:	BRH 221	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-2061
OFFICE HOURS:	T TH 9:30–10:30am; TH 12-1pm	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

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 an 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:

- Senn, A. (1999). *Power, Politics, and the Olympic Games*. Champaign, IL.: Human Kinetics.
- Brownell, S., ed. (2008). *The 1904 Anthropology Days and Olympic Games: Sport, Race, and American Imperialism* (Critical Studies in the History of Anthropology). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- Bass, A. (2004). *Not the Triumph But the Struggle: 1968 Olympics and the Making of the Black Athlete*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Lenskyj, H. (2008). *Olympic Industry Resistance: Challenging Olympic Power and Propaganda*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

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	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	

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*

Readings: Bass, Chapters xx-xx; Dyreson, *International Journal of the History of Sport*. Available in the Mason Libraries E-Journal collection.

Topic Four: *America and the Age of Olympic "Innocence"*

Readings: Senn, Chapters x-; Dyreson, M. (200x). *International Journal of the History of Sport*. Available in the Mason Libraries E-Journal collection.

Film Material: *Chariots of Fire*

Topic Five: *Emerging Commercialism, Politics and Tensions in the Olympics*

Reading: Magdalinski, T. & Nauright, J., (2004). The commercialization of the Olympics, in T. Slack, (ed.), *The commercialization of sport*. London: Frank Cass, pp. 185-204. Copy to be supplied.

Senn, Chapters x-x.

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*

Reading: Lenskyj text; D. Booth (199x). 'Gifts of Corruption', *Olympika*. Available at www.la84.org.

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>].

