

Global Perspectives in Sports Course - SPMT 440

Syllabus, 2015 Fall course

Instructor: Oliver Weiss
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Classroom Location: Robinson Hall, A-247, George Mason University, Fairfax Campus

Weekly class mtg: Fridays, 10:30 AM - 1:10 PM

Mandatory Books: 1. How Soccer Explains the World (HSETW) by Franklin Foer
2. Football against the Enemy (FATE) by Simon Kuper

Other materials: As outlined in class and on Blackboard

COURSE OVERVIEW

Students will explore the nature of sport in international societies through assignments, individual discussions, film and video applicable.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of sport as a global phenomenon. Historical, cultural, political, economic, management and governance perspectives will be considered. Focus will be given to international football and sport leagues and teams, the globalization of sport, market dynamics, and social impact.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students will be able to

1. Analyze and understand the history and cultural significance of international sport
2. Examine the role of sport in global politics
3. Examine how global politics impact international sport
4. Explore sporting cultures in societies outside the United States
5. Examine the various models of sport organization and governance internationally
6. Explore the role of the media in international sport
7. Examine the ways in which international sport is managed and marketed
8. Understand the role of sport in economic development

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

Individual meetings and online assignments.

Grading Scale:	A+ = 97-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60-69
	A = 93-97	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	F = 0-59
	A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	

Grading:	Final Exam	30%	
	Participation	25%	
	Quizzes (betw. 6-10)	20%	(worst quiz grade gets dropped)
	Projects and presentations	25%	

Honor Code: Thomas Jefferson's Honor Code applies. You will sign the pledge in class!

Final Exam: 2 hour exam with short answers and essay questions
Open notes (your own handwritten or typed) on exam allowed

Participation: Mandatory (25 % of grade)

Missed class: 0 for participation, no make ups on quizzes

Projects / Present.: 1) 8 Slides (8 min.) PPT on a foreign country's mythical embrace of football and its political, economic, and social consequences (12%)
2) (Mini) Presentations: 4-6 min oral report (w use of graphics) to explain pre-assigned terms and aspects of a footballing culture with a specific focus on history, geography, and politics (5%)
3) Interview of an international sports ambassador by phone, in person, or skype and prepare a 2 page/500-600 word/double spaced summary (8%)

Sequence	Date	Topics / Chapter	Readings / Assignments
1st class	4-Sep	Introduction to North America	Global Perspectives & the North American Sports Delivery: <i>Can we suspend our own Bias and engage with an open mind?</i> <i>North America and its love affair with being different than Europe</i> HSETW, Ch. 10 (Quiz): The American Culture Wars FATE, Ch 15, (Quiz): Short, dark Americans Presentations: 1, 2, 3 (Students will be assigned per email)
2nd class	11-Sep	Europe I	<i>Western Europe: Battlefield for Human Civilizations</i> <i>England, Germany: Football Giants with their own issues...</i> HSETW, Ch. 4 (Quiz) - The Sentimental Hooligan (England) FATE, Ch. 3: (Quiz) - The Soccer Dissident (Germany) Presentations: 4, 5, 6
3rd class	18-Sep	Europe II	Online class via Distance Learning System in Blackboard <i>Eastern Europe and the eternal combination of Politics, Nationalism, and Sport</i> HSETW, CH. 1 (Quiz) - Gangsters Paradise (Serbia, et alia) Presentations: 7, 8, 9
4th class	25-Sep	Europe III	<i>Southern Europe: Ticki-Tacka and the beautiful game in Italy and Spain</i> HSETW, Ch. 8 (Quiz) - Bourgeois Nationalism (Spain) HSETW, Ch 7 (Quiz) - New Oligarchs (Italy) Presentations: 10, 11, 12
5th class	2-Oct	Europe IV	<i>Can we all just get along? Religion, Sports, and War...</i> HSETW, Ch. 2 (Quiz): Pornography of Sects (Scotland) FATE, Ch. 18 (Quiz): Celtic and Rangers or Rangers and Celtic? Presentations: 13, 14, 15
6th class	9-Oct	Latin America I	<i>How to govern in South America?</i> HSETW, Ch. 5 (Quiz): Top Hats FATE, Ch. 17 (Quiz): Pele, the Malandro Presentations: 16, 17, 18
7th class	16-Oct	Latin America II	<i>Violence of a special kind</i> FATE, Ch. 16 (Quiz): Argentina, Campeon! Presentations: 19, 20, 21
8th class	23-Oct	Africa	<i>The last Frontier for Everything, including Soccer</i> Fate, Ch. 12 (Quiz): Africa - In Belief Fate Ch 13 (Quiz): Roger Milla + President biya Presentations: 22, 23, 24
9th class	30-Oct	Middle East	<i>The Power of Soccer in the most Radical of Places</i> HSETW, Ch. 9 (Quiz): Islam's hope FATE, Ch. 21 (Quiz): Global game, global jihad Presentations: 25, 26, 27
10th class	6-Nov	South Asia	<i>The rise of India or the absence of Sports/Football in Society</i> Articels TBA
11th class	13-Nov	Oceania	<i>"The British are coming, the British are coming" - again</i> Articles TBA
12th class	20-Nov	NE Asia	<i>China, Japan, Korea: The new frontier for Sports and Football</i> Articles TBA

13th class 27-Nov No class (Thanksgiving Break)

14th class 4-Dec Project Presentations

15th class 11-Dec FINAL EXAM

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>].