

## Global Perspectives in Sports Course - SPMT 440

### Syllabus, 2016 Spring course

Instructor: Oliver Weiss  
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oweiss@gmu.edu  
Classroom Location: Robinson Hall B 205  
Weekly class mtg: Fridays, 10:30 AM - 1:10 PM

Mandatory Books: 1. How Soccer Explains the World (HSETW) by Franklin Foer  
2. Soccer against the Enemy (SATE) 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	25%	
	Participation	25%	
	Quizzes (weekly)	25%	(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, valid excuse for missed class must be submitted.

Projects / Present.: 1) Short Oral 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%)  
2) Interview someone who worked or works in international sports. You can speak to person by phone, in person, or (best) by skype). Submit a 2 page/500-600 word/double spaced summary (8%)  
3) Project: PPT Slideshow & Oral Presentation (8 min.) Topic: Any international Sports Topic that highlights political, economic, and social consequences/perspectives through sport (12%)

### Sequence Date Topics / Chapter Readings / Assignments

1st class	22-Jan	North America	Introduction to Global Perspectives & the North American Sports Delivery:
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			<b><i>How do our brains work? Can we suspend our Bias and have an open mind? North America and its love affair with being different than Europe</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read HSETW, Ch. 10 The American Culture Wars Read SATE, Ch 15: Short, dark Americans Quiz #1 on both chapters above.
<b>2nd class</b>	<b>29-Jan</b>	<b>Europe I</b>	<b><i>Western Europe: Battlefield for Human Civilizations England, Germany: Football Giants with their own issues...</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read HSETW, Ch. 4: The Sentimental Hooligan (England) Read SATE, Ch. 3: The Soccer Dissident (Germany) Quiz #2 on both Chapters, and Oral Presentations: 1, 2, 3
<b>3rd class</b>	<b>5-Feb</b>	<b>Europe II</b>	<b><i>Eastern Europe and the eternal combination of Politics, Nationalism, and Sport</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read HSETW, CH. 1 (Quiz) - Gangsters Paradise (Serbia, et alia) Quiz 3, and oral Presentations: 4, 5, 6
<b>4th class</b>	<b>12-Feb</b>	<b>Europe III</b>	<b><i>Southern Europe: Ticki-Tacka and the beautiful game in Italy and Spain</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read HSETW, Ch. 8: Bourgeois Nationalism (Spain) Read HSETW, Ch 7: New Oligarchs (Italy) Quiz 4 and oral Presentations: 7, 8, 9
<b>5th class</b>	<b>19-Feb</b>	<b>Europe IV</b>	<b><i>Can we all just get along? Religion, Sports, and War...</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read HSETW, Ch. 2: Pornography of Sects (Scotland) Read SATE, Ch. 18: Celtic and Rangers or Rangers and Celtic? Quiz 5 and oral Presentations: 10, 11, 12
<b>6th class</b>	<b>26-Feb</b>	<b>Latin America I</b>	<b><i>How to work for free and still govern in South America?</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read HSETW, Ch. 5 (Quiz): Top Hats Read SATE, Ch. 17 (Quiz): Pele, the Malandro Quiz 6 and oral Presentations: 13, 14, 15
<b>7th class</b>	<b>4-Mar</b>	<b>Latin America II</b>	<b><i>Corruption and Sports</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read SATE, Ch. 16 (Quiz): Argentina, Campeon! Quiz 7 and Oral Presentations: 16, 17, 18
<b>8th class</b>	<b>18-Mar</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b><i>The last Frontier for Everything, including Soccer</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read SATE, Ch. 12 (Quiz): Africa - In Belief Read SATE Ch. 13 (Quiz): Roger Milla + President Biya Quiz 8 and oral Presentations: 19, 20, 21
<b>9th class</b>	<b>25-Mar</b>	<b>Middle East</b>	<b><i>The Power of Soccer in the most Radical of Places</i></b>
		Assignment:	Read HSETW, Ch. 9 (Quiz): Islam's hope Read SATE, Ch. 21 (Quiz): Global game, global jihad Quiz 9 and oral Presentations: 22, 23, 24
<b>10th class</b>	<b>1-Apr</b>	<b>South Asia</b>	<b><i>India rising</i></b> Articles TBA
<b>11th class</b>	<b>8-Apr</b>	<b>NE Asia</b>	<b><i>China: "All for one and one for all..."</i></b> Articles TBA
<b>12th class</b>	<b>15-Apr</b>	<b>NE Asia</b>	<b><i>Japan and Korea: Traditions and Traditions</i></b> Articles TBA
<b>13th class</b>	<b>22-Apr</b>	<b>Project Presentations</b>	
<b>14th class</b>	<b>29-Apr</b>	<b>Project Presentations</b>	
<b>15th class</b>	<b>6-May</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

### **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>].