

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism**

**SPMT 440**  
**Global Perspectives in Sport (3 credit hours)**  
**Fall 2010**

DAY/TIME:	F 10:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m.	LOCATION:	ENGR 1109
PROFESSOR:	Chris Elzey	EMAIL ADDRESS:	<a href="mailto:celzey@gmu.edu">celzey@gmu.edu</a>
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 304 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.” We will do this and more.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Explain the origins of international modern sports
2. Explain the role sports has played in international politics and the role politics has played in sports
3. Explain the significance of popular international sporting events and institutions
4. Explain the significance of global sports heroes
5. Explain the significance of international sports scandals
6. Explain the globalization of sport
7. Explain the ways in which international sport is managed and marketed
8. Explain the cultural impact sport has played in both first-world and developing nations
9. Research and write an original paper on a topic relating to sports in a modern, global setting

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

SPMT 440 explores the global sporting experience from the nineteenth century to the present. Specific topics include the formation of modern sports on a global scale, sports and colonialism, the origins and evolution of such worldwide sporting institutions as the Olympic Games and the World Cup, the political usage of sports, the cultural significance of global sports heroes, the impact of globalization on sports, the marketing of international sports, and sports and the developing world. A variety of pedagogical methods will be used, including lecture, class discussion, student presentations, as well as the screening of video/DVDs and listening to music. Attendance is mandatory. Make-up exams require a doctor’s note or some other form of sufficient 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 will be two exams—one midterm and one final. Each will account for twenty-five percent of your final grade. In addition, you are to write a research paper (15-20 pages, double spaced). The topic is your choice. The

paper is worth thirty percent of your final grade. At the end of the semester, you will present your paper to the class. The brief presentation should last no longer than fifteen to twenty minutes. It will account for ten percent of your grade. Lastly, participation in class and three outside assignments will comprise the final ten percent of your grade. I expect you to come to class having done the reading.

	<b>% of Grade</b>
Assignments and exams	
Exams	
#1 Midterm	25
#2 Final	25
Research paper	30
Presentation	10
Participation and outside assignments	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### 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)

September 3: Introduction; the beginnings of modern sport (start Guttman, *Games and Empires*)

September 10: Sport as cultural agent: Muscular Christianity and the YMCA

September 17: Sports and colonialism; discussion of Guttman, *Games and Empire*; **assignment due**

September 24: Early twentieth-century European sport; the modern Olympic Games: origins and evolution

October 1: Modern Olympic Games (cont.); The Olympics of the Nazis

October 8: The Olympic of the Nazis (cont.); screening: *Olympia* and *The Fight*

October 15: **Exam**

October 22: Cold War sports (start Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*)

October 29: Sport and the developing world; discussion of Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*; **assignment due**

November 5: The globalization of sport; international marketing of sport (start Arkush, *The Fight of the Century*)

November 12: Commercialism and sports; **assignment: To dope or not to dope?** discussion to follow

November 19: Global sports heroes; discussion of Arkush, *The Fight of the Century*, screening: *When We Were Kings*

November 26: No class

December 3: **Presentations**

December 10: **Presentations (research papers due)**

December 17: **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](http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc)]
- ❖ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>