

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

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

DAY/TIME:	F 10:30 a.m.-1:20 p.m.	LOCATION:	Robinson A105
PROFESSOR:	Chris Elzey	EMAIL ADDRESS:	celzey@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	TBA	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-2098
OFFICE HOURS:	M 5:00 p.m.-7:00 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 modern sports on a worldwide scale
2. Explain the role sports has played in international politics
3. Explain the significance of popular international sporting institutions
4. Explain the significance of global sports heroes
5. Explain the globalization of sport
6. Explain the ways in which international sport is managed and marketed
7. Explain the cultural impact sport has played in both first-world and developing nations
8. Research and write an original paper on a topic relating to sports in a modern, global setting

COURSE OVERVIEW

SPMT 440 examines the global sporting experience from the nineteenth century to the present. Specific topics will 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, globalization and sports, the marketing of international sports, and sports and the developing world. A variety of methods will be used during class time, including lecture, discussion, student presentations, as well as watching video 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. In addition, you are expected to write a research paper (20-25 pages, double spaced). The topic is your choice, but you must write a brief prospectus (no more than two pages) that discusses the subject and the sources you plan to use. At the end of the semester, you will present your paper

to the class. The brief presentation should last no longer than fifteen minutes. Lastly, participation in class and two outside assignments will comprise the final ten percent of your grade. I expect you to come to class having not only done the reading but also having thought about it.

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

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)

January 22: Introduction; the beginnings of modern sport

January 29: Sport as cultural agent: Muscular Christianity and the YMCA

February 5: no class; **out-of-class assignment TBA**

February 12: Sports and colonialism; discussion of Guttmann, *Games and Empire*; **paper prospectus due**

February 19: Early twentieth-century European sport; the modern Olympic Games: origins and evolution

February 26: Modern Olympic Games (cont.)

March 5: The Olympic Games of the Nazis; screening: *Olympia* and *The Fight*

March 12: No class

March 19: **Exam**; Cold War sports

March 26: Sport and the developing world; discussion of Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*

April 2: Commercialism and sports; **out-of-class assignment: To dope or not to dope?** discussion to follow

April 9: The globalization of sport; international marketing of sport

April 16: Global sports heroes; discussion of Arkush, *The Fight of the Century*, screening: *When We Were Kings*

April 23: **Presentations**

April 30: **Presentations (research papers due)**

May 7: **Final exam**



- ❖ 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]
- ❖ For additional School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism information, please visit the website at <http://rht.gmu.edu>