

Professor Andrew McFarland

Fall 2024

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Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

Class Zoom address: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/2743341630> Meeting ID: 274 334 1630

Course Syllabus: Hist- T571 World History

Topic: Global History of Modern Sport

Course Description

This course focuses on the development of athletics throughout the world in the 19th and 20th centuries. Sport, in various forms, has played a huge role in defining class, national, and community identities around the world and provided those identities with a forum through which to battle one another. Further, sport has been a leader in globalization and internationalism, developments exemplified most clearly by the Olympic movement and advertising. The course will begin with the foundation of modern sport in northwest Europe, the Olympics, the rise of cricket and football internationally, and their connections to empire (mostly the British Empire). Then we will address the role of athletics in Latin America, Africa, and Asia and its interactions with race and gender.

Outside of a general understanding of how modern sport developed, there are several goals for this course. The first is to demonstrate the social role played by athletics in different societies. Although it is easy to write sport off as a frivolity, anything that draws in so many people and so much money necessarily has a far more significant effect on those who participate than it is generally given credit for. Hopefully, our discussions will develop student's understanding of why we play in our own lives (or why not) so that our choices are educated ones. A second theme is understanding the role of identity creation and how athletic competition shapes our idea of "us" and "them" through the games we play. The last main theme is the role of consumerism and money that lie behind most sports. Simply put, modern sport is big business and it is important to understand the effects this has on the activity itself.

Course Outcomes

1. Discuss the origins of modern sport across Britain, France, and Germany, how it then spread through systems of empire, and the complexities this produced. (CLO1)
2. Discuss modern mass sports like the Olympics and football (soccer), including the roles of mass consumerism and fandom that surround them. (CLO2)
3. Discuss sport's role in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. (CLO3)
4. Discuss sport's interactions with race, gender, and class. (CLO4)
5. Demonstrate ability to effectively write, summarize, and analyze complex readings. (CLO5)

Required Readings

Franklin Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization*

Alan Klein, *Sugarball: The American Game, the Dominican Dream*

C.L.R. James, *Beyond a Boundary*

Nick Hornby, *Fever Pitch*

H. G. Bissinger, *Friday Night Lights*

Walter Lefebvre, *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*

Chapters from the Below Books are Required Readings Posted on Canvas

Alan Guttman, *From Ritual to Record*, introduction

Alan Guttman, *The Olympics*, chapter

Numerous other readings.

Reading assignments are posted the week before we discuss them and must be completed by the Wednesday of the week we discuss them.

Grades

Discussions	30%
Module 2-3 Summary	20%
Module 4-5 Summary	20%
Module 6-7 Summary	20%
Article Review	10%

- Discussions will be scored on a point system each week based on the Discussion rubric.
- Module Summary's will be 8-page papers summarizing the main reading in those modules and expressing your thoughts on their strengths and weaknesses.
- Article Review will be a 4-page paper summarizing and reviewing 1 extra article in 1 unit of the class. It will have to be submitted to me and also posted in the appropriate unit's discussion to add to it and let other students respond.

Zoom Rules

Please note the following rules regarding Zoom class meetings.

1. Students will need to log into Zoom using your IU username and password. You may have to download the Zoom app.
2. Set Zoom so that your first and last name are visible rather than your username or other identification.
3. Students are required to use video unless they have received permission not to from me.
4. Students should mute their audio until they are speaking to the class.
5. Students should dress as if they were attending class face-to-face on campus (i.e., no pajamas or other inappropriate clothing).
6. Students should attend class sitting in an upright position (e.g., not lying down).
7. Students should not eat while attending class.

8. Zoom Meeting Information:

1. <https://iu.zoom.us/j/2743341630>

Missed Deadlines

Deadlines are important in a graduate class, however you can always submit assignments late for a grade. There will be a penalty if there is not a good reason, but if there is there may not be at my discretion.

Class Policies

- All work must be yours. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in any form and will result with an F for the assignment (if not more strict action).
- AI should not be used as the purpose of the writing assignments is to develop and improve your own ability to write and express arguments.

Class Schedule

Module 1: Introduction and World History

Week 1- 8/26 World History as a Field

Module 2: Origins of Modern Sport and the British Role

Week 2- 9/2 Origins

Guttman, *Ritual to Record*

Week 3- 9/9 British, German, and French Sport

Holt, *Sport and the British*

Module 3: Global Games

Week 4- 9/16 International Soccer

Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*

Week 5- 9/23 Olympics

Guttman, *Olympics*

Module 4: Consumerism and Fandom

Week 6- 9/30 Consumerism

Lefebver, *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*

Module 2-3 Summary Due 10/6

Week 7- 10/7 Movies

Field of Dreams and Hoosiers

Week 8- 10/14 Fandom

Hornby, *Fever Pitch*

Module 5: Sport and Empire

Week 9- 10/21 African Sport

Multiple articles

Week 10- 10/28 Cricket and British Empire

James, *Beyond a Boundary*

Module 6: Sport in LA and Asia

Week 11- 11/4 Caribbean

Klein, *Sugarball* and others

Module 4-5 Summary Due 11/10

Week 12- 11/11 South America

Multiple articles
Week 13- 11/18 Asia
Multiple articles
Week of 11/25 No Class for Thanksgiving
Module 7: Race and Gender
Week 14- 12/2 Race
Bissinger, *Friday Night Lights* and Negro Leagues
Week 15- 12/9 Gender
Multiple articles
Module 6-7 Summary Due 12/19