

Fall, 2018  
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## HIEU 127 – The Global History of Modern Sports

This course looks at the phenomenon of sport in all its social, cultural, political and economic aspects. Our starting point will be the emergence of modern sport in nineteenth century Britain, but our approach will be global. Our primary concern will be with elite sport rather than participation or physical culture. Because our approach will be topical rather than strictly chronological, students should already have a good knowledge of world history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as we will be attempting throughout the course to set sport in the context of the events of particular periods. Students who feel they lack the background may want to read Eric Hobsbawm's works – *The Age of Empire* and *The Age of Extremes*. Other works covering the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are also acceptable. Students who have taken Making of the Modern World will be sufficiently prepared.

Aside from the specifics of this topic, much attention will be paid to explaining what is called the historical method which inculcates particular skills for understanding the contemporary world. We will pay attention to when certain practices began and how they emerged into their form today. The Olympic Games are the most visible sporting practice that has invented a galaxy of traditions which have never been timeless. Understanding this process helps us comprehend how the world changed and continues to change. Additionally, we now live in a world of much too much information. The ability to discern good from bad information will be what separates the winners from the losers in our digital age. While this is far from a simple process, the study of history teaches us this crucial skill. This, more than the acquisition of specific knowledge, is the primary hoped for outcome of this course.

There will be a take home mid-term (33%) week 6, and a take-home final (67%).

Students will have the option of replacing the mid-term with a focused research paper of 10-15 pages. The topic must be worked out in consultation with the instructor and approved. It is crucial that this work will be yours and not something you have purchased. To get approval, you must submit a list of a few questions you hope to answer about the topic and a brief preliminary list of sources. This must be done by the time of the mid-term. No topic will be accepted after that date. The paper is due at the same time as the take-home final. Presenting work that is not your own as your own is a very serious violation of student conduct and can be treated harshly.

Books to be purchased at Bookstore or anywhere else

C. L. R. James – *Beyond a Boundary* [GV928.W47 J35 1993](#)

Allen Guttman – *The Olympics* [GV721.5 .G85 1992](#)  
Richard Holt – *Sport and the British* GV605 .H65 1989  
David Goldblatt – *The Ball is Round* GV943.G65 2006  
Susan Cahn – *Coming on Strong* GV709 .C34 1995  
Elliot Gorn and Warren Goldstein- *A Brief History of American Sports* GV 583. G673 2013

Available on free download at [www.LA84Foundation.org](http://www.LA84Foundation.org)

Robert Edelman – *Serious Fun: A History of Spectator Sports in the USSR*

Available online from Geisel Library

Tony Collins - *Sport in Capitalist Society*

Simon Martin - *Football and Fascism* – 173-217

## Electronic Reserves

John Macaloon – *This Great Symbol*, 43-60 GV721.2.C68 M32

Allen Guttman – *Ritual to Record*, [GV706.5 .G87](#)

J. Huizinga – *Homo Ludens*, CB151 .H813 1970;

Xu Quogi – *Olympic Dreams*, GV 651 X78 2008

R. Guha - *Corner of a foreign Field* - [GV928.14 G83 2014](#)

## READINGS

### Week 0 – Definitions and Requirements

Tony Collins – *Sport in Capitalist Society*

### Week I – Theorizing Sport

Allen Guttman – *From Ritual to Record*, ch. 1 electronic

Johan Huizinga - *Homo Ludens*, ch. 1 electronic

### Week II – The Rise of Sport in the Modern World

Richard Holt, *Sport and the British*, chs. 2-4

### Week III - The People's Game – Soccer

David Goldblatt – *The Ball is Round*, pp. 19-260

### Week IV – The Olympic Games

John MacAloon – *This Great Symbol* pp. 43-60 electronic

Guttman – *Olympics* – chs. 2-10

Week V – American Exceptionalism?

Elliot Gorn and Warren Goldstein - *A Brief History of American Sports* - chs. 3-6

Week VI – Sport and Fascism

Simon Martin – *Football and Fascism* - electronic

Mid term

Week VII - Sport and Communism

Download from website [[www.LA84foundation.org](http://www.LA84foundation.org)]- Robert Edelman – *Serious Fun* - chs. 2-6

Week VIII – Gender

Susan Cahn – *Coming on Strong*, chs. 5, 7-10.

Week IX - Sport and Colonialism – Africa and the Diasporas

C.L.R. James – *Beyond a Boundary* – pp. 1-116

Week X – Sport and Colonialism: China and India

Xu Guogi – *Olympic Dreams* – ch. 3, 5 and 7 electronic

Ramachandra Guha, *A Corner of a Foreign Field* - pp. 189-303 electronic