

# Film & the Politics of Sport– POL 206

Intersession 2017 - 229 Cornell Hall

MTWRF – 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

**Professor:** Dr. Mike Gunter

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Taste the thrill of victory - and the agony of defeat. Gear up mentally for your next sporting event, explore cutting edge documentaries, and fine-tune your inner political antennae in this examination of the politics of sport in film. From “ping pong diplomacy” ushering Nixon’s groundbreaking 1972 visit to China, to South Africa’s post-apartheid coming of age 1995 rugby World Cup run, sports can bring out the best in people and their politics. Then again, as every competitor knows, there can be a darker side to athletics, one that the 1972 Munich Olympics highlighted with the birth of modern terrorism. Whether competitor or super-fan, after this week, you’ll never see sports the same way again.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course takes to heart Rollins’ mission of educating students for global citizenship and responsible leadership, highlighting internationalization and diversity along the way. More specifically, you will:

1. develop a theoretical understanding of how politics shapes sport
2. deepen knowledge of key political events expressed through sport, from apartheid in South Africa and racism in Nazi Germany as well as the United States, to Cold War maneuvering in the 20th century, to terrorism and commercialization today
3. gain greater appreciation for documentary and feature film as an instructive medium as well as acknowledge their limitations

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

Students will complete guided reading assignments, daily written summaries of those readings, an oral PowerPoint presentation, and an end of the week term paper as well as daily participation in class discussion and in-class assignments. Active participation is an integral part of this course, especially given our condensed format over the Intersession. Be sure to complete the two to three readings per class before we meet -- and come prepared to discuss them. Our class participation rubric is found below in this syllabus, along with further details on the Readings Summaries, PowerPoint Presentation, and Term Paper.

## **GRADING POLICY**

Intersession courses at Rollins are offered on a pass/fail basis. To receive credit for this course you must complete each of the following components satisfactorily:

25% Daily Participation

25% PowerPoint Presentation

25% Readings Summaries

25% Short Term Paper

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Monday, Jan. 9: Early Olympic Politics**

History of the Olympic Games

Fuller, Jamie. "A Not so Brief History of Politics and the Olympics" *The Washington Post*, 5 February 2015: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/02/05/machiavelli-meet-the-olympics>

Introduction

PowerPoint Assignments

Riordan and Kruger 1

Propaganda & The 1936 Berlin Olympics

Leni Riefenstahl's *Olympia*, 1938 (226 min.)

*Part One: [Festival of Nations](#)* (1 hr 51 min) *Part Two: [Festival of Beauty](#)* (1 hr. 30 min.)

Fascism & Sport, Riordan and Kruger 4

### **Tuesday, Jan. 10: Cold War Posturing**

Introduction to the Soviet Union & Eastern Bloc

Impact of Communism on Sport, Riordan and Kruger, Chpt. 3

East German Doping Presenter #1:

1956 Water Polo Presenter #2:

1972 Munich Gold Medal Basketball Game (Dichter and Johns, 9) Presenter #3:

1980 Moscow & 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Boycotts Presenter #4:

[Freedom's Fury](#), 2007 (90 min.)

Cracks in Communism: The 1956 Hungarian Revolution

Corwin, Miles. "Blood in the Water at the 1956 Olympic Games" *Smithsonian*, 31 July 2008:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/blood-in-the-water-at-the-1956-olympics-1616787/?all>

### **Wednesday, Jan. 11: Terrorism**

Definitions of Terrorism

Riordan and Kruger 11: Wedemeyer, Bernd. "Sport and Terrorism," *The International Politics of Sport in the Twentieth Century*, James Riordan and Arnd Kruger, eds., London: E& FN Spon, 1999.

Race (Riordan and Kruger, Chpt. 8) Presenter #5:

Gender (Riordan and Kruger, Chpt. 7) Presenter #6:

Religion (Riordan and Kruger, 5) Presenter #7:

Track & Field Presenter #8:

[One Day in September](#), 2000 (97 min.)...see also feature film [Munich](#), 2005

Borden, Sam. "Long-Hidden Details Reveal Cruelty of 1972 Munich Attackers," *The New York Times*, 1 December 2015: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/02/sports/long-hidden-details-reveal-cruelty-of-1972-munich-attackers.html>

### **Thursday, Jan. 12: Economics in Sport**

South African Apartheid & Sanctions

Riordan and Kruger, 12

[\*Invictus\*](#), 2009 (133 min.)

Rugby Presenter #9:

Tennis (Allison, Chpt. 9) Presenter #10:

FIFA Presenter #11:

PyeongChang Winter 2018 Olympics Preview Presenter #12:

Optional Cycling Presenter #16:

Optional Cricket Presenter #17:

Olympic Debt

Appelbaum, Binyamin. "Does Hosting the Olympics Actually Payoff?" *The New York Times Magazine*, 5 August 2014: [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/10/magazine/does-hosting-the-olympics-actually-pay-off.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/10/magazine/does-hosting-the-olympics-actually-pay-off.html?_r=0)

### **Friday, Jan. 13: Lessons from Loss**

Ice Hockey & the Cold War

Dichter and Johns, 8

[\*Red Army\*](#), 2015 (85 min. from Olin)...see also *ESPN's 30 for 30: [Of Miracles and Men](#)*

Table Tennis Presenter #13:

Boxing Presenter #14:

2016 Russian Doping Scandal Presenter #15:

Optional Hunting (Allison, Chpt 8) Presenter #18:

Financial Woes

Torre, Pablo. "[How \(and Why\) Athletes Go Broke](#)," *Sports Illustrated*, March 2009

Optional: *ESPN's 30 for 30: [Broke](#)*

## **PARTICIPATION**

Strong daily participation is critical to the success of this course. This is the reason it is not possible to receive credit for this course without *significantly active* participation throughout the week. Emphasizing participation in this course also demonstrates the extent to which classroom time should build on our readings - and it reflects my belief that you will learn from one another in this class, just as you will learn from me.

To receive satisfactory marks in participation one must come to class well prepared, completing all readings and assignments before our meeting time. You may find it helpful to make a rough outline of the day's readings and/or jot down an intriguing question or two that arose from the readings.

Each day I will assign a possible 10 points for your participation, with at least 35 total for the week needed to pass the course (7.0 average). Be aware that quality counts more than quantity in this calculation. You do not need to dominate the conversation. In fact, doing so will detract from your

grade (don't worry I will let you know before this happens). Students earn points in the following manner:

- 5 points for attending class
- 1 more point for being on time
- And 1-4 more points for quality of participation
  - A level participation gets 3 or 4 points
  - B level gets 2 points
  - C level gets 1 point

## **READINGS SUMMARIES**

Each day readings summaries are due before the start of class. To receive credit for this component of the course, you must bring in a *typed* 50 to 75-word description for each reading that day. The primary purpose of this assignment is to jump start discussion and provide a foundation for your presentation as well as your end of the week term paper. Summaries will simply receive marks of 100%, 75%, or 0%.

## **POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

This 10-minute oral presentation counts towards 25% of your final grade. Using PowerPoint, and the visual medium it presents, explain how politics impacts your assigned sport or issue area, integrating course readings whenever possible. Of course, you will need to do some outside research as well. It may help you to focus on a specific case study, i.e. 1972 gold medal basketball game between the United States and the Soviet Union, or you may focus on a series of events, i.e. the epidemic of steroid use by East German swimmers during the latter stages of the Cold War.

In terms of your grade, beyond the requirements outlined above, the details below are the scoring rubric I will use. Remember to fill out the top five lines of the following grade assignment page, submit that grading sheet the day of your presentation, and check out an attachment device (dongle) from Olin Circulation if you will present with a Mac.

### **Content**

#### 1. Introduction

-- tell us why you think your topic is important AND interesting

#### 2. Established knowledge base

-- what are the fundamental facts the rest of the class needs in order to understand your topic  
-- remember your time constraints demand a concise approach here  
-- the five w's of reporting may serve as your guide: who, what, when, where, and why/how

#### 3. Conceptual orientation and cohesion

-- this is often the difference between a stellar report and an average one  
-- tell the class how your current event report relates to politics we have discussed in class

#### 4. Critical analysis

-- here is your chance to shine  
-- explain what lessons can be extracted from this event or series of events

#### 5. Conclusions

-- brief summary of how this event was resolved

-- highlight a couple discussion questions for the rest of class to consider

### **Delivery**

I encourage you to incorporate the following delivery suggestions as you prepare your presentation. In addition to simply improving your message (because delivery really does count in politics), addressing these items should also make you more comfortable during the actual presentation.

1. The tone of your voice literally and figuratively sets the tone for your topic.
2. Eye contact is important. Notes are a good guide, but avoid reading from your notes for prolonged periods.
3. Gestures and facial expressions can add further emphasis to the words you choose to convey your message.
4. Similarly, the use of silence can often have an important impact.
5. And finally, there is no substitute for enthusiasm. Why should the audience care if even the speaker does not feel this is an interesting topic?

### **TERM PAPER**

The final term paper is a four to five-page paper examining the intersection of politics and sport. After consultation with the professor, you are free to focus on any aspect other than your topic for the PowerPoint presentation. Papers are due to me by Noon Tuesday, Jan.17<sup>th</sup>. Drop off a hard copy with Ms. Nakia Gater in CSS 216 and submit an electronic version to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Our class ID is "11310733" and the class password is "honor." Let me know if you need any help with this, but do be sure to complete this requirement if you wish to receive credit for your paper. Failure to complete both steps, the hard copy and electronic versions, by the assigned due date will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. Please take this seriously as it would be a shame for you to not get credit in this course simply for failing to follow directions.

**PowerPoint Presentation – fill out top 5 lines yourself**

***Name:***

***Topic:***

***Points of emphasis:***

***Presentation date:***

**Content**

1. Competence in factual background information

/5

2. Relevance to class, including conceptual orientation and cohesion

/25

3. Critical analysis

/25

4. Presentation effectiveness (introduction/conclusion/delivery/supplementary materials)

/25

/20

**Total Grade:**