Political Science 179  
Special Study in Comparative Politics: Politics & Sports  
Spring 2016  
Monday & Wednesday 10-11:50am (Wellman 119)

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***More likely to reach me by email than by phone
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http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/office-hours.html

TAs:  
Nahrain Rasho: nrasho@ucdavis.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm in Kerr 675

Course webpage: http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/courses/poll79  
(this page is also linkable from the course page at http://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/)

Course Summary: In their more dispassionate and rational moments, people remind themselves that they should not get too worked up by what happens in a sporting event. After all, they note, “it’s just a game.” However, as any serious observer of American and world history can tell us, many significant sporting events of the past century have been far more than “just” games. These events and the people involved in them have figured prominently in many of the most important political issues of the past century. This course introduces students to core issues in American and world politics, but do so through the lens of sports and the athletes who play them.

The course is divided into three parts:
1. The 1930s: when sports intersected with the Nazi march to war and issues of race in the U.S.  
2. The postwar era: specifically the ways in which sports interacted with the civil rights movement in the U.S., Middle East turmoil, and the Cold War  
3. The end of the Cold War: most notably Mandela’s use of rugby to help unify post-Apartheid South Africa.
Please Note:
• I am happy to answer questions by email about the substance of course material (e.g., why are there two parties often in a single-member district electoral system?).
  o But if you want to use email to ask questions about the course logistics (e.g., information about assignments or where to go for an exam), please contact your TA.
• Note that all references to “course website” refer to my faculty website – not Smartsite.
• All Power Point slides, assignments, grades, email archive, and online reading will be posted at Smartsite.
  • In Smartsite, Power Point slides are listed with a lecture/class number and the date – these match the lecture/class number and date of the class listed in the syllabus.
  o If I don’t lecture on a day (e.g., on exam days), there will be no Power Point slides that go with that day’s lecture number and date.
• For additional class policies, please see the Course Expectations page: http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/courses/Course%20Expectations.pdf

Required Texts:
• See Smartsite

Videos: You will be expected to remember the main points from the videos that we show in class – although you don’t need to know all the details.
• All reading listed for the course is required, unless otherwise noted.

Assignments/Grades:
Students’ final grades will be based on the following assignments.

(1) Participation in class (10%).
  • Everyone in the class receives an automatic 100% for their lecture participation score. However, anyone engaging in any of the following behaviors in class will have their lecture participation grade lowered:
    o TEXTING, USING THE INTERNET, EMAILING (ETC.), CHATTING, sleeping, horsing around, cell phone use, reading the newspaper, and regularly arriving late or leaving early will lead to a low participation grade.
    o I am likely to give a 0 for participation to any student that I (or the TAs) see texting, internet or Facebook browsing, chatting, emailing, etc. in class. I am unlikely to give you any warning on this.
  • Attendance in lecture is not mandatory, so if you need to do any of these things, please do them outside of the class.
  • There is no need to let the instructors know when you are going to miss class. (In fact, please don’t email us to let us know unless it is really, really important.)
If you miss classes (lecture or section), you will need to get notes or find out what you missed from another student in the class (and not from the instructors). However, as with any class, the instructors will be happy to answer any specific questions about the material.

- If it appears that students are surfing/viewing the internet/emailing (etc.) in class, I may ban the use of laptops/smartphones/etc. in the classroom.
- Also, actions that generally ignore the “Course Behavior and Expectations” may lead to a lowered Lecture Participation grade.

(2) **In-class Midterm (45%) – Class #10 (4/27, Wednesday).** (Please bring a blue book – not the one with smaller number of pages.)
  - The exam will cover everything in the course up to this point.
  - I will provide you with information on the format of the midterm by Class #7.

(3) **Final (45%) will be Thursday, June 9, 1-3pm in our regular classroom.**
  - The exam may cover all material from the class, but emphasis will be placed on material after the midterm.
  - Be sure to bring two (2) blank blue books to the final.
  - You know the date and time of the final well in advance. Short of a serious personal emergency (serious illness, death in the family, military service – for all these things, you must provide documentation) or religious observance (in which case you must let me know at the start of the quarter), I will not offer alternative final exam dates.

- For in-class exams, you will turn in your blue books at the start of the exam period and then be given new ones. Blue books with pages torn out of them will not be accepted.

(4) **Test on course expectations:** If it becomes clear that students are ignoring the course expectations and/or syllabus, I reserve the right to give a test that measures students’ knowledge/awareness of the course expectations/syllabus. This test will not raise any student’s score in the class, but it may lower your lecture participation grade.

Please see the next page for information on grades and grading.
Grades

Numerical grades translate into letter grades as follows:

- 100 = A+
- 93.6-99.9 = A
- 90-93.5 = A-
- 86.6-89.9 = B+
- 83.6-86.5 = B
- 80 – 83.5 = B-
- Etc.

• The translation of scores to letter grades is all set mathematically. I will not respond to requests to have me change your grade above what your score merits according to the above scale.

• For additional information on grading or how to have your assignment regraded, please see my Regrading Policy: http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/courses/Regrading.pdf
Class Dates, Topics and Assignments

***The Instructor Reserves the Right to Change the Assignments as Circumstances Require***

**Changes will be mentioned in class, through email, and placed on the syllabus**

The reading listed for a given class session is the reading you should do prior to that day.

ASSIGNMENT FOR EVERY DAY: CHECK YOUR UCD EMAIL EVERY DAY SO THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE ANY UPDATES TO THE COURSE.

PART I: SPORTS AND THE LEAD UP TO WORLD WAR II

1. 3/28 (Monday): CANCELLED

2. 3/30 (Wednesday): Introduction
   - Please bring a dark/bold/big Name Tag to put on your desk throughout the class.
   - Prior to class today, please read over the syllabus and course expectations closely.
     http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/courses/Course%20Expectations.pdf
   - In class today, please ask any questions you have about the course logistics or the course in general.
   - I also strongly recommend that you read the following from Carol Dweck. This book represents my learning philosophy, and I urge you to read it and take the ideas within it seriously.
     - “The Mindsets” (Ch1, pp. 3-14), “Inside the Mindsets” (Ch2, pp. 15-44, 52-54), and p. 245 Diagram. This chapter is from: Dweck, Carol S. 2006. Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. New York: Balantine Books.

3. 4/4 (Monday): Hitler, the Nazis, Jesse Owens, & the 1936 Olympics
   - We will watch portions of The Journey of the African-American Athlete (1996).

4. 4/6 (Wednesday): Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling & the Lead Up to WWII
   - We will watch portions of The Journey of the African-American Athlete (1996).
PART II: SPORTS AND THE POSTWAR PERIOD

II-A: SPORTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE U.S.

5. 4/11 (Monday): WWII and Racism & Sports in the U.S.
   • We will watch portions of Ken Burns’ Baseball (6th Inning)
   • On multiple days, we will watch portions of The Journey of the African-American Athlete (1996).
   • FYI: Ken Burns has a new 2-part PBS series on Jackie Robinson starting TODAY! http://kenburns.com/films/jackie-robinson/

6. 4/13 (Wednesday): Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Major League Baseball
   • We will watch portions of Ken Burns’ Baseball (6th Inning)

7. 4/18 (Monday): Muhammad Ali and the 1960s Civil Rights Movement
   • I will provide you with a sense of the format of the midterm today

8. 4/20 (Wednesday): The 1968 Olympics and Black Power

9. 4/25 (Monday): The Women’s Movement, Bill Jean King, and the Birth of Title IX

10. 4/27 (Wednesday): Midterm
    • Covering all material to this point
    • I will give you information on the midterm by Lecture #6
PART II: SPORTS AND THE POSTWAR PERIOD
II-B: SPORTS AND MIDDLE EAST UNREST

11. 5/2 (Monday): The 1972 Munich Massacre

- Will show One Day in September (2005)
PART II: SPORTS AND THE POSTWAR PERIOD
II-C: SPORTS AND THE COLD WAR

12. 5/4 (Wednesday): The Start of the Cold War & the USSR
   • Will watch parts of Red Army (2014)

13. 5/9 (Monday): The Cold War & East Germany
   • Will watch parts of Doping for Gold (2008)

14. 5/11 (Wednesday): The Soviets’ Interactions with Hungary & Czechoslovakia
   • http://espn.go.com/nhl/story/_/id/14972472/nhl-vaclav-nedomansky-was-hockey-first-true-defector
   • http://www.tsn.ca/naylor-the-triumphs-and-challenges-of-the-stastnys-1.133234

15. 5/16 (Monday): Miracle on Ice
   • Will watch Do You Believe in Miracles? The Story of the 1980 U.S. Hockey Team (2001)

16. 5/18 (Wednesday): Cold War Military Buildup & Olympic Boycotts

17. 5/23 (Monday): Fall of the Soviet Union/Soviet Hockey Players Joining the NHL
   • Will watch parts of Red Army (2014)
PART III: SPORTS AFTER THE COLD WAR  
Mandela, Rugby, & the Consolidation of Democracy in Post-Apartheid South Africa

18. 5/25 (Wednesday): Nelson Mandela & the Unifying Power of Sports  
   • Will watch *The 16th Man* (2010)

19. 5/30 (Monday): Memorial Day – No Class

20. 6/1 (Wednesday): Rugby in South Africa During & After Apartheid  

***Final Exam***  
Thursday, June 9, 1-3pm in our regular classroom  
Exam will be based on entire course but emphasis on material since the Midterm.