Midterm Study Guide
POL179

I reserve the right to make changes to this study guide until class-time the day of the last lecture prior to the midterm.

Exam Format:
The instructions I give at the top of the exam are:

Midterm
POL179 – Politics & Sports
Spring 2016
100 total points

Instructions: Please write all answers in your blue book. On the cover of the blue book, please write: (1) [Your name], (2) “POL179 – Midterm,” (3) Today’s date. Other instructions:
• Please turn in the exam questions with your answer sheet. Blue books turned in without exam questions will not be accepted.
• When you are done with the exam, PLEASE BE VERY, VERY QUIET as you get up, turn in your exam, and leave the classroom.
• Be sure to write legibly, preferably with blue or black pen ink. (Illegible answers will get a zero.)
• If possible, please write only on one side of each page. (It can be hard to read when front & back of pages have writing on them.) For this reason, you might need 2 blue books.
• Nothing but pens and blue books on your desks. (No dictionaries, please.) If you have anything besides the blue book, exam question, and pen out, we will automatically take away your exam and give you a score of 0 (unless an instructor has given you permission).

2 essay questions below. Essay 1=40 points, Essay 2=60 points. Please answer them both.
• For each essay, be sure to present a clearly stated argument. You should present a thesis statement very early (ideally first sentence of the essay or, at latest, the end of the first paragraph), and offer support – based on class readings, videos, and lectures – for your argument throughout the essay.
• You should offer arguments that indicate a balanced understanding of the issue. In other words, you should also indicate potential shortcomings in your argument and note what the other “side” might argue. In addition, please indicate why your argument is more compelling than what the other side would argue.
• It is probably a good idea to outline your answer before writing it. Be sure to focus on answering the question as you go along (and not meander around, simply showing all you know on the topic).

The remainder of this Study Guide provides guidance for studying for the exam.
Specific things to know:

- All of the athletes we have discussed in lecture and their role in the politics (including especially civil rights) of their time
- Avery Brundage – and his significance
- The rise of Hitler and the Nazis in Germany
- Treatment of Jews in Nazi Germany
- The 1936 Olympics, generally
- The boycott debate surrounding the 1936 Olympics
- Success of Jews and African-Americans in the 1936 Olympics
- Issues of civil rights in the US
- Reconstruction amendments and limits to their application
- Key court cases and laws relating to civil rights
- The political (and religious) stands taken by Muhammad Ali
- The 1968 Olympics, generally
- Tlatelolco
- The threatened boycott of the 1968 Olympics
- What was the black power salute in the 1968 Olympics and why did they do it?

Specific Questions:

- Why did the Nazis wish to host the Olympics?
- To what extent were the Nazis successful in using the Olympics to promote Germany?
- Should the Americans have boycotted the 1936 Olympics?

Broader Questions:

- How did political leaders use sports to help support their cause?
- How did political leaders use sport to organize, mobilize, and/or unify supporters?
- What role did athletes play in promoting the political aims of their countries? What role did athletes play in promoting civil rights in the U.S.?
  - Were athletes’ contributions in the above areas principally through their presence and success on the field of competition?
    - In what ways were these athletes’ actions on the field important to civil rights and/or politics more generally?
  - Or were their actions (e.g., protest) off the field more important?
- From the perspective of contributing to civil rights and/or politics more generally, who do you think was the most significant athlete that we have studied thus far in this class?