The Influence of Sports in World Society and Culture

TR  2:00 – 3:15  SO 3032

Instructor: Dr. Elsa A. Nystrom
Office: Social Studies Building 4122
Office Hours: TTH – 9:30- 12:30 –3:30 - 5:00, or by appointment.
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VISTA: We will be relying on Desire2Learn quite a bit in the class, hopefully for discussions, as well as document posting, useful web links, messages from me and to me, and announcements.


We will discuss the appropriate style for your seminar paper in class. You will be using Chicago Style found in Turabian (the 7th edition is the latest, but there is much information about formatting online. You might also want to take at look at http://www.csusb.edu.history/index.html for suggestions on writing, primary source description and formatting. However we will talk about formatting styles throughout the class.

Turnitin.com  Your papers must be uploaded to Turnitin.com. I will provide the class ID and password.

Course Objectives: This class will have a seminar format with much discussion about the readings and the few films we will watch. At the end of the class, you should have an heightened understanding of how sports have had a pervasive influence on world societies and how this influence has actually increased over time as communication become easier. Your main objective in this class will be to write an original research paper on some aspect of sport history using primary sources as the basis for the body of your paper and your conclusion.

Course Description:
Everyone has an opinion about sports, either positive or negative, not just in the US but around the world. Many Americans are surprised that soccer or football as it is called everywhere else but in the US is the most popular sport in the world, played everywhere this is a place to kick a ball around. The Olympics, although originally a competition with religious overtones is now supposedly about sporting competition between countries but has become much more in recent times, Each host city or country tries to outperform the last in showcasing their society and cultures and it has become hugely expensive. Professional athletes in the most popular sports make huge salaries, which can be a blessing and a curse, as it attracts young athletes to make the pro ranks and college athletics in some areas, has turned into a developmental league for professional sports. What do we make of this? When were the first sports played, how did these sports change over time and when did the era of modern sport begin? These are just a few of the questions we will ask and answer in this class..

Successful completion of this course will depend on your individual effort and a high standard of scholarship is expected with regard to your senior seminar paper and your class discussion. The seminar group is relatively small and each member will be expected to come to class prepared and to participate every week.

The instructor is available to help you at all stages of your research and writing. Don't hesitate to call or stop by my office if you have a problem or idea you want to discuss. However, most of your grade rests on how well you develop and write your seminar paper.
Academic Honesty and Student Conduct:
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of these high standards is crucial since the validity and equity of the University’s grades and degrees depend upon it. Any student found guilty of an infraction or a regulation for academic honesty shall be suspended for at least one semester unless evidence is provided to convince the court that substantial mitigating circumstances existed in that student’s offense. The following regulations are designed to assist students in developing appropriate standards and attitudes with respect to academic honesty. To this end, the regulations protect students against infractions that may compromise the validity of their degree or place them at an undue disadvantage with respect to the equity of their grades.

A. Plagiarism and Cheating
No student shall receive, attempt to receive knowingly or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of a course (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.) When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated; when the languages, ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged.

B. Unauthorized Access to Official University Materials
No student shall take or attempt to take, steal, or in an unauthorized manner otherwise procure, gain access to, alter or destroy any material pertaining to the conduct of a class. For further information on Academic Honesty, see the Student Code of Conduct, Section II in the current KSU Undergraduate catalog.

All papers must be uploaded into Turnitin.com

Grading System

Grades will be based on the following scale: A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69 and F 0-60

The final grade will be an average of the following parts:

1. Research Paper = 70% of the final grade. Paper (50%) will be graded on quality of research and writing. Instructor will cover the mechanics of writing and research in class. PPT report on research findings and conclusion, 20%.

   The research paper should be approximately 20 pages, typed, at least 16 pages of text, and the remainder notes and bibliography (most easily done on a computer with proper software) and double spaced. It should include footnotes or endnotes as well as an annotated bibliography. Proper format will be briefly discussed in class. Your topic must be about some aspect of Sports History, and it must be approved by your instructor. Care must taken in selecting a topic that is not too narrow to generate a paper of the required length or too broad to successfully explain your thesis. Your paper must rest on primary sources (the number depends on their length but at least 5) and supported by secondary sources (about 10). Resting on primary sources means that at least 51% of your footnotes must come from your primary source materials. This is absolutely necessary for a successful paper (a grade of C or higher).

2. Class Participation = (Leading Discussion (20%), and Discussion Participation 10%)

Since history is more than the regurgitation of boring facts, your paper should explain not only what actually happened but why and what in turn was the consequence. The paper will be graded on the quality of its scholarship (proper use of sources, adequate documentation, accuracy etc.) but your paper should also be well written, readable and original in concept. Your bibliography should be extensive, containing a variety of primary and secondary sources

TURNITIN

In this seminar class, all students are required to register with Turnitin; supported by KSU. This system checks sources of your papers to mainly to prevent accidentally student errors regarding plagiarism. After
you register for *Turnitin* you will be able to submit your drafts for review online and correct any errors if found. This system is something that I feel will help you become better writers; I am using it upfront to help your writing not to catch you out in anything. We will go over the system in class. Password info will be posted.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend every class. Your grade will reflect missed classes. Let me know in advance if you have some compelling reason that will keep you away from class.

**Late Assignments**: Assignments are due on the date posted. The discussion leader lists will be put up on Desire2Learn as soon as we have a list. Late assignments will lose value fairly rapidly, a full grade every week; this will include postings that miss the date as well.) i.e. 1 -7 days late a moves to B, 7-14 days late, B moves to C and so on.

**Incomplete Grade**

At semester's end an incomplete will be considered **only** if you can prove that some emergency prevents you from completing all the course requirements on time.

**Discussion assignment**: Each student will have an opportunity to lead a film or book discussion during the semester. You will be expected have done your reading on the assignment. If the discussion is about a film you need to have looked up reviews on the film, and have questions ready for your peers. You will need to provide your peers with the historical and cultural background of the film, so they will have a better understanding of what they are watching.

**Weekly Class Schedule**

**Thursday – January 10**
Introduction – The first part of class will provide a brief overview of the seminar, discussion of assignment topics and the mechanics of writing and research

TR – January 15 - 17  
Guttman, Introduction, Chapters 1 - 5

TR – January 22 - 24  
The Middle Ages, England the Cradle of Modern Sports, Guttman, 6 - 9

TR - January 29 - 31  
Sports in North and South America from the Puritan to the Present -  
Guttman 10 - 13

Tuesday - February 5  
Variety of Sports in the Modern World, Guttman, 14,15

TR – February 12 - 14  
The Olympics - Summer and Winter, Guttman, 16, 17, 21

TR - February 19 - 21  
Sports, Problems and Promise. Guttman, 18, 19, 20,

TR - February 26 - 28  
Murray, The World's Game, Chapters 1 - 4

**Thursday – March 8**  
**No class – spring break**
TR – March 12 - 14  
The World's Game, continued, Chapters 5-9

TR - March 19 - 21  
Gaming the World

TR – March 26 - 28  
Gaming the World

TR - April 2 - 4  

TR – April 9 - 11  
PPT presentations continued

TR - April 16 - 18  
Presentations continued

TR – April 23 - 25  
PPT presentations  
Papers due the 25!!!

Tuesday - April 30  
Presentations end.

***Instructions for discussion leaders and participants: Whether you are leading or participating in a discussion about a book or film, you need to know its thesis and the methods used to make the argument. You need to decide if it was effective and if the author’s view seems to be correct. You must also decide whether the thesis is correct. When you lead a discussion about a film you must look up information about the producer, director and stars as well as reviews. You must share with the class, any information you found that will further their understanding of the film before we actually see the film.

*** Special Instructions

Students must present a PPT detailing their topic research, thesis and conclusion and submit a copy to the instructor.

No Final Exam!