

AS 100.386
The Cold War as Sports History
W 3.00 – 5.30 pm
Shriver Hall 001

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms

Email: vharms1@jhu.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10 am - 12 pm and by appointment; 342 Gilman Hall

Description

In this class, we will investigate how the Cold War has shaped national and international sports and the role of athletes in society and politics. Race, gender and class are social constructions that are inextricably intertwined with Cold War sports history. We will discuss the ways in which sports confirm and consolidate but also challenge and change social structures and opportunities of self-fulfillment and social advancement.

Sports history facilitates engaging with and understanding the history of the Cold War as well as its lasting legacy. This seminar is based on the premise that sports are as much a reflection of society as they are a constitutive part thereof. We will seek answers to questions such as: How is the Cold War reflected in sports, sports competition and athletic bodies? What do we learn from sports about individual and collective identities during the Cold War? How has the Cold War shaped sports nationally and internationally? Do sports reveal a certain Cold War way of thinking?

Students are expected to engage with academic and non-academic literature on the topic, primary sources, documentary and feature films. Plan to read between forty to sixty-five pages per week. This is a discussion-based class. Be prepared to read short texts and watch short videos in class and discuss them. We will split up in smaller groups during some sessions to discuss primary sources, movies, or the reading assignment. You will need a laptop, smartphone or tablet for some of the in-class assignments.

Learning objectives:

- ✓ Assessing secondary literature
- ✓ Deconstructing historical narratives
- ✓ Analyzing and interpreting primary sources, including audio-visual material
- ✓ Understanding concepts such as nationalism, racism, gender, class, etc.
- ✓ Working within comparative & transnational history

Required Reading:

Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews (eds.). *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*. Oxford: Routledge, 2007.

Please subscribe to the podcast "[Sports in the Cold War](#)," in *Cold War International History Podcast*, Wilson Center.

Further recommended reading (on reserves):

Guttman, Allen. *The Olympics. A History of the Modern Games*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2002.

Goldblatt, David. *The Games. A Global History of the Olympics*. London and New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2016.

Shaw, Tony, and Denise J. Youngblood. *Cinematic Cold War. The American and Soviet Struggle for Hearts and Minds*. University of Kansas Press, 2010.

Check out the resources at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars: <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/theme/sport-in-the-cold-war>.

This syllabus serves as a contract between you and me that explains what I expect of you, and what you may expect of me. By enrolling in this class, you accept the terms laid out here. Please read them carefully. If at any time I need to make changes to the syllabus, I will provide as much advanced notice as possible.

Assignments:

Participation: 25%

Participation, not just attendance, is key. Come to class prepared and on time.

Be ready to read several pages of material in class. That will require concentrating for 10 minutes in silent study. Expect plenty of group work.

You are expected to engage with the assigned readings, additional material and your peers during discussion sessions and group work. Common rules of courtesy apply.

Reading Notes: 30%

For each class, you are expected to submit a short reading/ listening note to blackboard. These notes are short summaries in your own words of the topic, main arguments/ main claims and the evidence the author(s) use(s) to corroborate claims.

Please submit your note as a thread to the discussion of that week on blackboard. You will only be able to see the other contributions once you have submitted yours.

Each note is graded on a scale of 1-5. Overall, the reading notes make up 30% of your final grade. Please make sure to submit your note **until 2.30 pm** of the same day.

Essay I (10 pages): Open 25%

The first essay is a research paper, and thus must contain a unique argument and demonstrate a sound use of primary sources and secondary literature.

You are asked to discuss a topic of your choice (e.g. person, event) that reflects Cold War sports history.

Please inform the instructor of **your topic by March 22** on blackboard (journal: Essay I) and submit a preliminary list of ideas, literature, and sources you wish to consult.

Deadline: April 4, 2020, 11:59 pm.

Essay II (8 pages): Movie 20%

Pick a movie from the list below and analyze its content within the history of Cold War.

You have to introduce a research question, a thesis and a well-argued, well-structured argument highlighting the relevance of the movie you chose to Cold War sports history.

Please inform the instructor of **your choice by April 17** on blackboard (journal entry) and submit a preliminary list of ideas, literature, and sources you wish to consult.

Selection of movies (all available at reserves in the library):

- *Miracle on Ice*, dir. by Steven Hilliard Stern, 1981.
[alternatively: *Miracle*, dir. by Gavin O'Connor, 2004.]
- *Rocky IV*, dir. by Sylvester Stalone, 1985.
- *The Miracle of Bern* [Das Wunder von Bern], dir. by Sönke Wortmann, 2003.
- *Children of Glory* [Szabadság, Szerelem], dir. by Krisztina Goda, 2006.

Deadline: April 27, 2020 at 11.59 pm

Grading:

- ✓ 25% Participation
- ✓ 30% Reading Notes
- ✓ 25% Essay I
- ✓ 20% Essay II (movie)

Written Assignments

In addition to the formal requirements specified below, essays are graded based on the primary and secondary sources consulted, clarity of argument, style of writing, consistent and correct use of references, and the organization of the paper.

This is a history class. You will have to research primary sources. Online sources only will not be sufficient for a passing grade.

Formal requirements:

- Normal margins 1" top & bottom, 1"25 left & right, 12 pt. font size, font: Times (New Roman), Arial, Calibri, Cambria or similar.
- Submit to turnitin on blackboard.
- Insert page numbers.
- Add your name to the file name.
- List of references appears on a separate page (does not count towards page limit).

Schedule

29 January 2019

Introduction

Wamsley, Kevin B. "The Global Sport Monopoly: A Synopsis of 20th Century Olympic Politics." *International Journal* 57, no. 3 (Summer 2002): 395-410.

Allison, Lincoln. "The Olympic Movement and the End of the Cold War." *World Affairs* 157, no. 2 (Fall 1994): 92-97.

5 February 2019

The Modern Olympic Games

Allen Guttmann, "The Most Controversial Olympics," in *The Olympics*, pp. 53-71.

Leni Riefenstahl, *Olympia* (1936). (Worksheet), Part I, Festival of Nations: approx. 0-23 mins, 38-48 mins, 52-55 mins, 1h33-1h40. Part II, Festival of Beauty: 0-15 and 1h12-1h29 (end).

12 February 2019

Cold War Sports Overview

Allen Guttmann, "In the Shadow of the Cold War," in *ibid.*, *The Olympics*, pp. 85-102.

Edelman, Robert, Anke Hilbrenner, and Susan Brownell. "Sport under Communism." In *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Communism*, edited by Stephen A. Smith, 602-616. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Episode 16, "War Minus the Shooting," in [Sport in the Cold War](#) (podcast), April 4, 2016.

19 February 2019

Challenges of the early Cold War to the Olympic Movement

Rider, Toby C. "Eastern Europe's Unwanted: Exiled Athletes and the Olympic Games, 1948-1964." *Journal of Sport History* 40, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 435-53.

Rinehart, Robert E. "Cold War Expatriot Sport: Symbolic Resistance and International Response in Hungarian Water Polo at the Melbourne Olympics, 1956." In *East Plays West*, pp. 45-63.

Episode 20, "[The Black Spider](#)," in [Sport in the Cold War](#) (podcast),

26 February 2019

Gender and Cold War Sports

Beamish, Rob, and Ian Ritchie. "Totalitarian Regimes and Cold War Sports: Steroid 'Übermenschen' and 'Ball-Bearing Females'." In *East Plays West*, pp. 11-26.

de Oca, Jeffrey Montez. "The 'Muscle Gap': Physical Education and US Fears of a Depleted Masculinity, 1954-1963." In *East Plays West*, pp. 123-48.

Episode 2, "[John F. Kennedy and Hockey](#)," in in [Sport in the Cold War](#) (podcast), 1 October 2015.

4 March 2019

Races in the Cold War

Thomas, Damion. "Playing the 'Race Card': US Foreign Policy and the Integration of Sports." In *East Plays West*, pp. 207-21.

Blaschke, Anne M. "Running the Cold War: Gender, Race, and Track in Cultural Diplomacy, 1955–1975." *Diplomatic History* 40, no. 5 (2016): 826-844.

11 March 2019

Muhammed Ali

Allen Guttman, "A Time of Troubles," in *ibid.*, *The Olympics*, pp. 126-140.

Bill Siegel (2013), *The Trials of Muhammad Ali* (kanopy) (94 mins) (worksheet)

16-20 March Spring Break 2020

** 22 March 2019: topic essay I

25 March 2019

West Germany vs. East Germany

Kioussis, George N., and Thomas M. Hunt. "Projection and Reception: The American(Ized) Other in East German Elite Sport, 1966–77." *Journal of Sport History* 42, no. 2 (Summer 2015): 161-178.

Episode 15, "[The Most Beautiful Face in Socialism](#)," in [Sport in the Cold War](#) (podcast), 21 March 2016.

1 April 2019

Yugoslavia: Non-aligned But in Competition

Mills, Richard. "Cold War Football: Soviet Defence and Yugoslav Attack Following the Tito–Stalin Split of 1948." *Europe-Asia Studies* 68, no. 10 (December 2016): 1736–1758.

Jovanovic, Zlatko. "The 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics and Identity- Formation in Late Socialist Sarajevo." *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 34, no. 9 (2017): 767-782.

** 4 April 2020: Essay I Due

8 April 2019

The Cold War Boycotts I

Wenn, Stephen. "Rivals and Revolutionaries: Avery Brundage, the Marquess of Exeter and Olympic Television Revenue." *Sport in History* 32, no. 2 (2012): 257-278.

Allen Guttman, "The Era of the Boycott," in *ibid.*, *The Olympics*, pp. 141-163.

Episode 34, "The Forgotten African Olympic Boycott," in [Sport in the Cold War](#) (podcast), February 18, 2017. 20:12 mins.

15 April 2019

The Cold War Boycotts II

Martin, Evelyn. "The Soviet Union and the Olympic Games of 1980 and 1984: Explaining the Boycotts to their own People." In *East Plays West*, 235-252.

Corthorn, Paul. "The Cold War and British Debates over the Boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics." *Cold War History* 13, no. 1 (2013): 43-66.

Episode 33, "Carter's Olympic Boycott," in [Sport in the Cold War](#) (podcast), January 9, 2017. 16:12 mins.

** 17 April 2020: movie choice essay II

22 April 2019

Commercialization

Séguin, Benoit. "Olympic Rings as a Brand and Symbol for Internationalism. A North American Perspective." In *Internationalism in the Olympic Movement*, edited by Holger Preuss and Karsten Liese, 53-61. Wiesbaden: VS, 2011.

Wenn, Stephen. "Peter Ueberroth's Legacy: How the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics Changed the Trajectory of the Olympic Movement." *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 32, no. 1 (2015): 157-171.

Episode 6, "Performance Enhancing Drugs," in [Sport in the Cold War](#) (podcast), November 10, 2015. 15:03 mins.

** 27 April 2019: Essay II Movie due

29 April 2019

After the Cold War

Riordan, James. "Sport after the Cold War: Implications for Russia and Eastern Europe." In *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*, edited by Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews, 272-88. New York: Routledge, 2007.

David Goldblatt, part 8, chapters 1-3, "Boom! The Globalization of the Olympics After the Cold War," in *The Games. A Global History of the Olympics*, (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Co, 2016), 329-363.

General policies

Absences

Absences are excused for illness, religious observance, participation in certain university activities, and other circumstances described in the university's policies and must be explained to your instructor at least 4 hours before class.

If you miss more than four classes unexcused/ without legitimate reason, you will not pass this class.

Academic Integrity

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. See Ethics Board Web Site

(<http://ethics.jhu.edu>) for more information.

Accommodations

Accommodations will be made for those who need them. Please come talk with me in the first two weeks of the semester to discuss your needs. Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.

Communication

I read and respond to email during regular business hours, 9-5, Monday through Friday. Please use proper formatting and address when writing your email. The best way to reach me is to come to my office hours.

Mental Health

The University is aware that many students experience anxiety, depression, and other emotional challenges. If you would like to speak to a professional counselor, please visit the campus Counseling Center. Information is available on the Counseling Center's website: <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/>

Screen Policy

Laptops, electronic readers, and smartphones are both a boon and a distraction to higher education. Research suggests that most of us learn better through longhand note taking. Electronic devices are **not** banned from this class; you will actually need them for some in-class assignments. It is **your choice** how to make the best use of them. **Make sure all of your devices are silenced.**