INTRL-GA 22429: The Political Impacts of Sport

CLASS SESSIONS
Section 22429: Fridays 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Dates: September 15 - December 15, 2017
Location: 19 University Place, Room 228

INSTRUCTOR
Kevin R. Davis
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Office Location: 19 University Place, TBD
Office Hours: By appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS
1. Sport and International Relations: An Emerging Relationship (Sport in the Global Society) - Adrian Budd & Roger Levermore **Required**
2. How Soccer Explains The World, An Unlikely Theory of Globalization - Franklin Foer (This book will be handed out for free for the first class)
3. Soccer Against the Enemy - Simon Kuper
4. Fear & Loathing In La Liga - Sid Lowe
5. What’s My Name Fool, Sports and Resistance in the United States - Dave Zirin
6. Game Over, How Politics Has Turned the Sports World Upside Down - Dave Zirin
7. Power Games, A Political History of the Olympics - Jules Boykoff

These are the books we will draw upon throughout the semester. You are not required to purchase every one of these books. I will notify you of the required texts before classes begin. Further videos and readings will be added before and during the course. Specific chapters, along with page numbers will be provided in advance of each week.

Additional readings:
Multiple other books, audio, and video documentaries/movies will be referred to throughout the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
"Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don’t like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that” Bill Shankly, Liverpool coach, 1959-74

For many of us, sport is an escape from politics and the daily realities we face, to an extent that a statement like Bill Shankly's above, makes complete sense to us. But for others, sport literally is a matter of life and death, when used for example, as a means of overcoming a totalitarian government's laws against freedom of association. Of course, for some of those same totalitarian regimes, it is a means of projecting a message or political statement, or a way of "cleansing" a tarnished and unwanted image. For some it is the only pathway for social mobility, while it can also be used as a tool to maintain and perpetuate social, ethnic and racial divisions.
Here in the US, sport and politics have always interacted with one another. For decades, African Americans were barred from the major leagues of its most popular sports, and then often economically exploited when actually allowed to participate. Because of the structure of team ownership, (almost universally white across the MLS, NBA & NFL), the racial make-up of its players, (increasingly African-American, Latino, or of colour), and the pre-free-agency rules governing player-compensation, it is not hard to see how a sinister impression of masters & slaves could develop. In the 60’s and 70’s, the NFL became a leading cheerleader the Vietnam War, a conflict that significant numbers of its players (and 50% of its fans) were against. Mohamed Ali’s rejection of his given name, Cassius Clay, along with his refusal to serve in Vietnam were important and powerful political statements.

Across Europe, soccer-club affiliation was a proxy for suppressed racial, ethnic, religious and class rivalries. Even though few of their global fans realize it, domestic support for many of Britain’s leading clubs was traditionally defined along religious divides. In Italy, political divisions often determine team loyalty, whilst in Spain, Barcelona was the embodiment of Catalanian independence, with Real (Royal) Madrid being the expression of the capital’s centralized political power. In Yugoslavia, soccer club affiliation arguably played a role in maintaining regional divisions that might have faded by now. Would those worrying about the break-up of the United Kingdom not prefer that there was national British soccer league, rather than separate English and Scottish ones. (Would fear of Barcelona being ejected from La Liga, actually prevent Catalonia from voting for independence from Spain?)

In Asia, beyond the growing popularity of English and Spanish soccer, the most important sporting rivalries revolve around cricket. Matches between India and Pakistan have become proxy wars between the two nations. How many Americans are aware that almost 1 billion viewers tuned in to watch them contest the Cricket World Cup semi-final in 2008?

And what of the Olympics, which as the first truly global sporting event, has so often been at the heart of politics: Jesse Owens’ humiliation of Adolf Hitler at Berlin ’36; the Mexico ’68 podium salute by Tom C Smith and John Carlos; the Palestinian terrorist attack of Israeli athletes at Munich ’72 and; the US Boycott of Moscow ’80. The focused global attention that the Olympics attract represents awesome power, the more so today with the high-octane multiplier effect of social media – It is therefore unrealistic to expect it to remain free of politics.

And then there is South America.

PREREQUISITES
None.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES
The broad aim of this course is to examine the interaction between sport and politics. Because Association Football, (known as “soccer” in the US), is the world most popular and truly global game, it will necessarily take up about 50/60% of the course. The remainder will examine the interplay between sports and politics in the US, in the world of Cricket, and finally, in the Olympic movement. If time permits, we will also look at Rugby, in particular South Africa, where its global pre-eminence around the time when Mandela became President, (and when they famously won the Rugby World Cup), has descended into mediocrity, through the imposition of race quotas. At the end of the course we will examine the preparations for and expectations for the World Cup in Russia 2018.
ASSESSMENT AND GRADING POLICY
Student grades will be based on:
   Class Participation.................................................. 20%
   Reflection Blogs (4 original and 4 response).... 40%
   Two Papers (10/20 and 12/8)................................. 40%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Class Participation
Students will be set reading, videos, audio or some combination of all these media each week. They will be expected to arrive in class in a position to discuss the subject we are covering that week.

Reflection Blogs
Students are required to complete eight total entries on the blog. Four of the entries must be original blog posts (500 words each), due 9/22, 10/6, 11/3, and 11/17. The remaining four entries should be one comments/response each week on another classmate’s post (250 words each), due by the following class 9/29, 10/13, 11/10, and 12/1. Feel free to exceed the minimum eight blogs if you feel inspired, but be mindful of due dates. The idea behind blogging is to further engage in a dialogue about course readings, class discussion and guest speakers that inspire you.

Blog writing is an academic exercise. Try to make connections to course themes, concepts, readings, and/or discussions. You may want to compare/contrast one class event to another, or to your own experiences or sources not listed for the course. You are encouraged to provide links to materials that you think would enrich classmates’ learning, e.g. websites, videos, newspaper/magazine articles, peer-reviewed journal articles, movies/documentaries, etc.

Each original blog entry should be 500 words, and each response/comment entry should be 250 words. Instructions for posting on the blog can be found on NYU Classes. Thoughtful and clearly written completion of all 8 entries will mean receiving the full 40% of the final grade. Less than 8 entries and lower quality will mean a lower percentage calculated into the final course grade.

Two papers:
Both papers will be set in class and will ask students to examine in depth one of the areas of interest we have covered. It will be expected that one essay covers an aspect of Association Football, due Friday, October 20th. Whilst the other should cover one of US sports, the Olympics, Cricket or Rugby, due Friday, December 8th. Each paper should be 4-5 pages maximum, and should be emailed in Word (.doc/.docx) form before the start of Friday classes.

The Essays must be submitted according the departmental policies. Please refer to your departmental handbook.

Due Dates:
Blog 1
Blog 2
Paper 1
Blog 3
Blog 4
Paper 2

   September 22nd
   October 6th
   October 20th
   November 3rd
   November 17th
   December 8th
NYU PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism is copying someone else's work and portraying it as your own without properly referencing it (i.e. not citing it). Plagiarism can be done purposefully or accidentally – either way it is still plagiarism. Plagiarism will be dealt with according to College Regulations. This is a severe offense – not to be taken lightly. If you need clarification or assistance on understanding plagiarism please see Dr. Williams immediately.

Disability Access
It is the policy of the University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Technology
This class is a seminar and as such will revolve around constant interaction and engagement. It would therefore not be appropriate for students to be engaged in other activities on-line during class. I THEREFORE RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT STUDENTS USE LAPTOPS FOR TAKING NOTES ONLY. There may be occasions when we need clarification on a particular fact, and we can access the Internet at that point.

COURSE STRUCTURE
Week by week we will examine different ways in which sports and politics interact with one another. We will begin by examining how sports are used to circumvent laws, which restrict freedom of association. We will then look at religious, ethnic and political divides across the European soccer landscape. We will look at how various fascist regimes in Europe used football and how various resistance movements used it as well. We will look at how soccer in Europe both heals and foments racial divisions simultaneously. After looking at soccer in Europe, we will then examine its political influence in South America and Africa.

Once we have come to understand “how soccer rules the world”, we will examine the politics of US sports, in particular the role that race has continued to play. After that we will focus on Cricket and then Rugby, each of which remain enormously popular in former British colonies. We will end the course by looking at preparations for the World Cup of Football (Soccer) in Russia 2018, most particularly the extent to which the threat of violence against visiting fans might be an instrument of internal and foreign policy.

Food
Please refrain from eating in class. Beverages are welcome, unless you are going slurp them.

Assuming we start on time each week, I will give students a 15-minute break, mid-class. At this point, students can refresh drinks, check their social media or just stretch their legs.
### Course Schedule

Please see the lecture section of NYU Classes to download the readings, assignment instructions, and lecture slides.

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<th>Session 1 – Course Introduction</th>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<th>Session 2 – Religious and Racial Divisions within British Soccer</th>
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**Blog 1 DUE today by 12:30 PM**

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<th>Session 3 – Spanish Football: From Franco's Real Madrid to Barcelona as an Expression of Catalan Nationalism</th>
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<td><strong>Description:</strong></td>
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<td>09/29</td>
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Reading:

- Fear & Loathing In La Liga By Sid Lowe
- Book chapters and additional readings TBD.

ONE response to classmate’s Blog 1 DUE today by 12:30 PM

Session 4 – THE LEGACY OF THE FASCIST MOVEMENT IN ITALIAN FOOTBALL, AND ITS ONGOING POLITICAL DIVIDES

10/6 Description:

- Italy's troubled political past along with class, regional and political divisions were often expressed through loyalty to its soccer teams. Sport was used by Mussolini to advance his ambitions.

Reading:

- Book chapters and additional readings TBD.

Blog 2 DUE today by 12:30 PM

Session 5 – THE FOOTBALL WAR: EL SALVADOR V. HONDURAS

10/13 Description:

- Exploring the intense rivalry that led to riots and the 100 Hour War in the qualifying race to the 1970 FIFA World Cup

Reading:

- Book chapters and additional readings TBD.

ONE response to classmate’s Blog 2 DUE today by 12:30 PM

Session 6 – ARGENTINIAN FOOTBALL AND GENERAL GALTIERI

10/20 Description:

- As with Italy, soccer was often used by political leaders as an expression of their politics and their place on the international stage.

Reading:

- Book chapters and additional readings TBD.

Paper #1 DUE today by 12:30 PM:
Association Football paper
### Session 7 – MLB, NFL, AND THE EVOLUTION OF RACIAL POLITICS IN US SPORTS

**10/27**  
**Description:**  
- Racial divides within and across its national sports are well documented, most recently in the movies (e.g. The depiction of Jackie Robinson's life in "42") We will explore the history of race in the NFL and MLB

**Reading:**  
- Book chapters and additional readings TBD.

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### Session 8 – THE NCAA AND THE NBA

**11/03**  
**Description:**  
- Like baseball and gridiron football, the history of Basketball and the NCAA are littered with racial issues. These have often revolved around the differentiating economics that impacted different racial groups in different ways.

**Reading:**  
- Book chapters and additional readings TBD.

**Blog 3 Due today by 12:30 PM**

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### Session 9 – CRICKET: FROM EXTREME NATIONALISM, WITHOUT THE FIGHTING

**11/10**  
**Description:**  
- The term: “it’s just not cricket” is used by English people as a way of describing something that is not fair. In many ways, cricket is a sport that embodies the national characteristics British people would like people to see them as having: sportsmanship and good manners being the most obvious. Almost exclusively played by former British colonies, the game is today the national sport of countries like India, Pakistan and Australia. Games between India and Pakistan are watched by hundreds of millions of viewers and often act as proxy battles between the two nations.

**Reading:**  
- Book chapters and additional readings TBD.

**ONE response to classmate’s Blog 3 DUE today by 12:30 PM**
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<th>Session</th>
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<td><strong>Session 10 – THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Blog 4 Due today by 12:30 PM</strong></td>
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<td>11/17</td>
<td>The Olympic Movement is littered with examples of it being used by governments as a way of projecting a favorable image of their nation. We will examine examples of this.</td>
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<td>• Book chapters and additional readings TBD.</td>
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<td><strong>Session 11 – RUGBY: THE POLITICAL ASSASSINATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ONE response to classmate’s Blog 4 DUE today by 12:30 PM</strong></td>
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<td>12/1</td>
<td>Rugby played an important role in South Africa's post-apartheid national reconciliation. Since then, the South African government has tried to use the sport to speed up societal integration. The net result of this has been a sharp decline in their competitiveness. Is it correct to use sport in this way? Does the goal of integration and racial equality supersede any sporting considerations anyway?</td>
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<td><strong>Reading:</strong></td>
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<td>• Video: Watch the movie: “Invictus”</td>
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<td>• Book chapters and additional readings TBD.</td>
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<td><strong>Session 12 – RUSSIA 2018: HOOLIGANISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY?</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Paper #2 DUE today by 12:30 PM:</strong> US Sports, the Olympics, Cricket or Rugby paper.</td>
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<td>12/08</td>
<td>Exploring foreign policy implications for hosting the next World Cup in Russia</td>
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<td>• Defining hooliganism, and how Russia has adopted and adapted the English tradition into something more</td>
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<td>• Book chapters and additional readings TBD.</td>
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<td><strong>Session 13 – SEMESTER-END DINNER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>Sum up the semester and celebrate!</td>
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