

Political Science 12A
Politics & Sports
Summer Session II, 2018
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 12:10 - 1:50 PM
Olson Hall 118

Instructor: **Professor Ethan Scheiner**
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Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30am-12pm & 4-4:30pm, but please always confirm first at
<http://scheiner.ucdavis.edu/officehours.html>

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Course webpage: <http://scheiner.ucdavis.edu/pol12a.html>
(this page will also be linkable from the course page at <https://canvas.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:

- Note that all references to “course website” refer to my faculty website – not Canvas.
- All Power Point slides, assignments, grades, email archive, study guides, and online reading will be posted at Canvas.
- In Canvas, 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.
 - 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://scheiner.ucdavis.edu/uploads/9/4/7/5/94754176/course_expectations.pdf

Required Texts:

- See Canvas
- **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:**
 - **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.**
 - **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, 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 Participation grade.
- (2) **In-class Midterm (45%) – 8/21 (T).** (Please bring a blue book that has a large number pages.)
- The exam will cover everything in the course up to this point.
 - I will provide you with a Study Guide.
- (3) **Final (45%) will be 9/13 (Th).**
- 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.
 - I will provide you with a Study Guide.
- 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+

93.4-99.9 = A

90-93.3 = A-

86.7-89.9 = B+

83.4-86.6 = B

80 – 83.3 = 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://scheiner.ucdavis.edu/uploads/9/4/7/5/94754176/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. 8/6 (**Monday**): Introduction & Hitler, the Nazis, Jesse Owens, & the 1936 Olympics

- **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://scheiner.ucdavis.edu/uploads/9/4/7/5/94754176/course_expectations.pdf
 - In class today, please ask any questions you have about the course logistics or the course in general.
- **Reading:** “Day Three – Berlin: Tuesday, August 4, 1936,” pp. 196-212 from: Schaap, Jeremy. 2007. *Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler’s Olympics*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
- We will watch portions of *The Journey of the African-American Athlete* (1996) and *The Nazi Games: Berlin 1936* (2016).

2. 8/7 (T): Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling & the Lead Up to WWII

- “The Fight,” pp. 283-309 from: Margolick, David. 2005. *Beyond Glory: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling and a World on the Brink*. New York: Vintage Books.
- 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.

3. 8/8 (W): Racism & Sports in the U.S.

- “Twilight Ere the Noon,” pp. 10-29 from: Tygiel, Jules. 1983. *Baseball’s Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- <https://mlk50.civilrightsmuseum.org/50-voices-50-years/posts/martin-luther-king-jr-and-the-black-athlete-protest-tradition>
- We will watch portions of *The Journey of the African-American Athlete* (1996).

4. 8/9 (Th): Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Major League Baseball

- “A Lone Negro in the Game,” pp. 180-208 from: Tygiel, Jules. 1983. *Baseball’s Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- We will watch portions of the “6th Inning” from Ken Burns’ *Baseball* (1994).

8/10 (F)

- **The study guide for the midterm will go online TODAY.**

5a. 8/13 (M): TBD

5. 8/14 (T): Muhammad Ali and the 1960s Civil Rights Movement

- “Sports on the Edge of Panic,” pp. 131-180 from: Zirin, Dave. 2008. *A People’s History of Sports in the United States: 250 Years of Politics, People, and Play*. New York: The New Press.
- We will watch portions of *The Trials of Muhammad Ali* (2014)

6. 8/15 (W): The 1968 Olympics and Black Power

- “The World Watches: October ’68,” pp. 123-140 from: Witherspoon, Kevin B. 2014. *Before the Eyes of the World: Mexico and the 1968 Olympic Games*. DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois Press.
- Will watch portions of *Fists of Freedom: The Story of the 1968 Summer Games* (1999).

7. 8/16 (Th): The Women’s Movement, Billie Jean King, and the Birth of Title IX

- “A Perfect Match,” pp. 113-136 from: Roberts, Selena. 2005. *A Necessary Spectacle: Billie Jean King, Bobby Riggs, and the Tennis Match That Leveled the Game*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Will watch portions of *Billie Jean King* (2013).

8a. 8/20 (M) – No Class

- Study for your midterm

8. 8/21 (T): Midterm

- The exam will cover everything in the course up to this point.
- Please bring blue book with many pages in it.

PART II: SPORTS AND THE POSTWAR PERIOD

II-B: SPORTS AND MIDDLE EAST UNREST

9. 8/22 (W): The 1972 Munich Massacre

- “Black September,” pp. 20-47 from: Reeve, Simon. 2000. *One Day in September: The Full Story of the 1972 Munich Olympics Massacre and the Israeli Revenge Operation “Wrath of God.”* New York: Arcade Publishing.
- Will show *One Day in September* (1999)

PART II: SPORTS AND THE POSTWAR PERIOD

II-C: SPORTS AND THE COLD WAR

10. 8/23 (Th): USSR, Start of Cold War, & Soviet Sports

- Riordan, Jim. 1993. "Rewriting Soviet Sports History." *Journal of Sports History* 20: 247-258.
- We will watch parts of *Of Miracles and Men* (2015)

11. 8/27 (Monday): East Germany & the Extremes of State Drive for Sporting Success

- Pp. 159-180 from Chapter 5, "Communist Sport Rivalries and the Role of Sport in the German Question" in Anderson, Sheldon. 2015. *The Politics & Culture of Modern Sports*. Lanham, MD.: Lexington Books.
- Will watch parts of *Doping for Gold* (2008)

12. 8/28 (T): The Hungarian Revolution, Soviet Invasion, and Blood in the Water!

- Pp. 153-159, 180-182 from Chapter 5, "Communist Sport Rivalries and the Role of Sport in the German Question" in Anderson, Sheldon. 2015. *The Politics & Culture of Modern Sports*. Lanham, MD.: Lexington Books.
- <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2011/dec/28/olympic-hungary-soviet-union-blood-water>
- Will watch parts of *Freedom's Fury* (2009)

12b. 8/29 (W): TBD

13. 8/30 (Th): Miracle on Ice

- [E.M. Swift, "A Reminder Of What We Can Be," *Sports Illustrated*, December 22-29, 1980.](#)
- Will watch *Do You Believe in Miracles? The Story of the 1980 U.S. Hockey Team* (2001)

August 31 (Friday): Study guide for the final will go online by TODAY.

- The exam may cover all material from the class, but emphasis will be placed on material after the midterm.

9/3 (M) – Labor Day – No class

14. 9/4 (T): Cold War Military Buildup & Olympic Boycotts

- “Boycott!” & “...and Again!” pp. 173-202 from: Senn, Alfred Erich. 1999. *Power, Politics, and the Olympic Games: A History of the Power Brokers, Events, and Controversies that Shaped the Games*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

15a. 9/5 (W) – TBD

15. 9/6 (Th): Fall of the Soviet Union/Soviet Hockey Players Joining the NHL

- “Crumbling at the Core” (Ch17, pp. 210-223) & “Robots Get *Glasnost*” (Ch18, pp. 224-237) from: Martin, Lawrence. 1990. *The Red Machine: The Soviet Quest to Dominate Canada’s Game*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada Limited.
- Will watch parts of *Red Army* (2014)

16a. 9/10 (M) – TBD

16. 9/11 (T): Czechoslovakia in the Cold War – The Most Thorough Mixing of Politics & Sports!!!

- Pp. 1-9 (from Ch1) “The Prague Spring” from: Pinchevsky, Tal. 2012. *Breakaway: From Behind the Iron Curtain to the NHL: The Untold Story of Hockey’s Great Escapes*. Mississauga, Ontario: John Wiley & Sons Canada, Ltd.
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2018/02/12/how-a-hockey-game-powered-a-revolution/?utm_term=.10d406d6bec7
- <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/09/05/nfl-players-anthem-protest-cold-war-219632>
- Will watch *Stastny* (2014)

PART III: SPORTS AFTER THE COLD WAR

Mandela, Rugby, & the Consolidation of Democracy in Post-Apartheid South Africa

17. 9/12 (W): Nelson Mandela & the Unifying Power of Sports

- “The Captain and the President” & “Springbok Serenade,” pp. 159-182 from: Carlin, John. 2008. *Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation*. New York: Penguin Books.
- Will watch *The 16th Man* (2010)

18. 9/13 (Th): Final Exam

- Regular classroom & time
- The final exam may cover all material from the class, but emphasis will be placed on material after the midterm.
- Please bring blue books with many pages in them.