HIEU 178/278 - SPORTS IN THE COLD WAR

The global competition that characterized the Cold War took place on many levels. These included the arms race, diplomatic conflicts, wars around the globe fought out by surrogates, as well as the constant fear of nuclear annihilation. Additionally, there was a cultural competition between capitalism and communism to see who had the best movies, dancers, music and art. Sports became a highly visible arena for US-Soviet competition in view of the mutually understood impossibility of waging actual war between the two superpowers that had emerged from WW II. As a form of human activity, success in sport was thought to measure the larger military and economic power of each system. At the same time, it was a form of popular culture that affected a wide range of ideas about gender, class, race, bodies and nations. This course will examine all the many ways sport affected the political, social and cultural struggles of the Cold War period – 1945-1991.

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and come to class to discuss those readings. In-class participation will be a significant part (25%) of the final grade. Each week, a single student or group of students will be expected to read the material closely and prepare a plan to lead the discussion (25%). Finally, each student will produce a 15-20 page focused research paper on a subject of the student’s choice and the professor’s approval. You must come and discuss your topic with the professor. The papers will be due finals week. It is crucial that this work be yours and not someone else’s. Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic protocol and, if judged to have occurred, will lead to severe penalties.

Books to be purchased (bookstore)

Robert McMahon – The Cold War: a very short introduction
Odd Westad – The Global Cold War
Allen Guttmann – The Olympics
Nicholas Saratakes – Dropping the Torch
Available online

Kay Schiller and Christopher Young – The 1972 Munich Olympics (Roger catalog)
Robert Edelman - Serious Fun (available at www.LA84Foundation.org)

Readings (at Geisel)

Week 1. Introduction

Torres and Dyreson – The Cold War Games, in Young and Wamsley, Global Olympics

Week 2. Cold War and Culture War

David Caute – The Dancer Defects, pp. 1-32
Richard Stites – Russian Popular Culture, pp. 1-8
Odd Westad – The Global Cold War, pp. 8-72

Week 3. Sports and Politics

Barbara Keys – Globalizing Sport, pp. 1-63
Robert Edelman – Serious Fun, pp. 1-23
John Hoberman – Sport and Political Ideology, pp. 1-22
Allen Guttmann – The Olympics (2nd edition), pp. 1-71

Week 4. Origins of the Cold War – The Post-War Moment

Guttmann, pp. 73-102
Edelman, pp. 79 – 124
Kathryn Jay - More Than Just a Game, pp. 1-78
Mary Dudziak – Cold War Civil Rights, pp. 6-15

Week 5. Fifties and Sixties

Guttmann, pp. 103-124
Edelman, pp. 125-193
David Maraniss – Rome, 1960, pp. 1-23
Douglas Hartmann - , Race, Culture and the Revolt of the Black Athlete, pp. 60-132
Claire and Keith Brewster - Mexico City, 1968 in Tomlinson and Young, National Identity and Global Sports Events
USSR-USA Sports Encounters, pp. 21-55
Week 6. Soccer: Multipolarity and Exceptionalism

David Goldblatt - The Ball is Round, pp. 357-478
Edelman - Spartak Moscow, pp. 136-232
Andrei Markovits - Offside, pp. 128-200

Week 7. South Africa and the Third World

Westad, pp. 207-250
Douglas Booth – The Race Game, pp. 55-160
Xu Guogi – Olympic Dreams, pp. 75-116
Susan Brownell – Beijing’s Games, pp. 129-148

Week 8. The Apogee

Guttmann, pp. 125-140
USA-USSR Sports Encounters, pp. 101-120
Kay Schiller and Christopher Young - The 1972 Munich Olympics, pp. 127-186

Week 9. Boycotts

Nicholas Saratakes – Dropping the Torch, pp. 60-179, 226-266
Edelman – Moscow 1980 in Tomlinson and Young
Guttmann, pp. 141-170

Week 10. Expanding the Field: Professionals and Females

Guttmann, pp. 171-183
Edelman – Serious Fun, pp. 194-238
Xu Gougi, pp. 197-224
Brownell, 97-128
Anke Hilbrenner – Soviet Women in Sports in Nikolaus Katzer et al eds. Euphoria and Exhaustion