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Fall 2014

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-3

Sharpe 008

Brown University

**HI1979K: Double Fault! Race and Gender in Modern Sports History**

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**You weren’t playing football last night: it won’t be invented for another million years!**

**Course Description:**

From Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics to the infamous East German swimmers of the Cold War to the diversity of the 1998 French soccer team, time and again, sport culture has helped to define overall social and cultural values. This seminar traces the development of national sports cultures in Western Europe over the modern period using the dual lenses of race and gender. We will begin by looking at how early modern societies defined what it meant to be a sports “star”, and how shifts in this definition over time included and excluded various groups. These shifts, including the promotion of masculinity through duels in the nineteenth century, the fears of women’s physical emancipation through the bicycle around the turn of the twentieth century, and the exclusion of Jews from competition in the 1930s and 1940s, were often based on a perceived or invented national need. In turn, these “needs” were actually social and cultural values. In this way, through the study of sports, we will be studying who we really are as a community—as well as who we aspire to be.

**Readings:**

-Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*

-Laurent DuBois, *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France*.

-Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*

-Frances E. Willard, *Wheel within a Wheel or How I Learned to Ride a Bicycle*.

All other readings available on Course Reserves. The class password is: SPORT.

**Assignments:**

-The major assignment for the class is a historiographical or research paper, ~20 pages, on a topic related to the course. Additionally, you will make a brief presentation of your topic and findings (to date) to the class. I will pass out guidelines about papers and presentations later in the course, and we will also choose dates for presentations later in the course.

-Over the course of the semester, you will be responsible for finding two primary sources (film, document, novel, newspaper article, visual source, etc) related to the day’s topic and presenting about them to the class. The next week, you will have a short paper (3-5 pages) due. In this paper, you will incorporate your primary source into a discussion of the week’s readings.

**Grades:**

Participation: 20%

Short paper: 25%

In-class presentations: 15%

Long paper: 40%

**PART ONE: INTRODUCTION: “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body”**

**September 8:** What is a sport and why should we care?

Clifford Geertz, “Deep Play”

Kendall Blanchard, “Prehistory and Early History of Sport”

**September 15**: Pre-19th century sport

Background: Enlightenment

-Teresa Sanliso, “Protecting Manliness in the Age of Enlightenment”

-Thomas LaQueur, “Orgasm, Generation”

-John Locke, *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*, Part I

-Rousseau, Emile, Physical Training

**PART TWO: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: Disordered Bodies, Disordered Minds**

**September 22**: Masculinity, Sport, and Honor

(Research Topics Discussion)

Background: the Victorians

-JA Mangan, “The Other Side of the Coin: Victorian Masculinity, Field Sports, and English Elite Education”

-Robert A Nye, “Fencing, the Duel, and Republican Manhood in Third Republic France”

-Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*, Chs 1 & 3

**October 6**: Sport, Race, and Empire

Background: imperialism

-Robert H. MacDonald, *Sons of Empire: The Frontier and the Boy Scout Movement, 1890-1910*, “Introduction” and Chapter 1, “The Legion that Never Was ‘Listed”

-Graham Dawson, “The Blond Bedouin: Lawrence of Arabia, imperial adventure and the imagining of English-British masculinity.”

-Mary Procida, “Good Sports and Right Sorts: Guns, Gender, and Imperialism in British India,” *Journal of British Studies*, Oct 2001

-Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization* (Ch. 5)

**October 20**: Women and Sport in the Long Nineteenth Century: Conformity or Liberation?

Background: women & emancipation

-Frances E. Willard, *Wheel within a Wheel or How I Learned to Ride a Bicycle*.

Marilyn Bonnell, “The Power of the Pedal”

Marks, *Bicycles, Bangs, and Bloomers*, Ch.6

**October 27**: RESEARCH SESSION @ Library

**PART THREE: The Twentieth Century: Moments of Contingency, Moments of Intensity**

**November 3**: Heroism, Sport, and the Great War

(Research paragraphs due)

Background: Great War

FILMS: “The Battle of the Somme” and “J’Accuse”

-Robert A Nye, “Degeneration, Neurasthenia and the Culture of Sport in Belle Époque France,” *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 51-68

-Sonja Levsen, “Constructing Elite Identities: University Students, Military Masculinity and the Consequences of the Great War in Britain and Germany,” *Past & Present*, Feb 2008

-Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man*

**November 10**: Nazis & sport—race

Background: Nazi Rise to Power

-FILMS: Leni Riefenstahl, “Triumph of the Will” and “Olympia” (selections)

-Das Schwarze Korps, Jewish Victor in the German College Championships (1935)

-Geist und Schönheit, Rejuvenating Life, Enthusiasm for Life, Rejuvenating the Volk (1936)

-Count Wolf Baudissin, “Sports in the Army”

-Dr A Mallwitz, “Sports Hygiene”

-Arnd Kruger, “Creating Supermen the Nazi Way,” in *Shaping the Superman: Fascist Body as Political Icon*

**November 17**: Cold War, Politics, & Sport

Background: Cold War origins

-Stefan Wiederkehr, “…if Jarmila Kratochvilova is the future of women’s sports, I’m not sure I’m ready for it.” Media, Gender, and the Cold War

-Stefan Wiederkehr, “‘We shall never know the exact number of men who have competed in the Olympics posing as women.’ Sport, Gender Verification, and the Cold War.”

-James Riordan, “Chinese Women and Sport: Success, Sexuality, and Suspicion,” *The China Quarterly*, No. 145 (Mar., 1996), pp. 130-152

Jeff Montez de Oca, “The ‘Muscle Gap’: Physical Education and U.S. Fears of a Depleted Masculinity 1954-63”

**PART FOUR: Sport and Identity Today—Issues Resolved?**

**November 24**: Sport, Race, and Gender Today

FILM: “Branded”, “Rise as One: One Nation”

-Ariel Levy, “Either/Or: Sports, Sex, and the Runner Caster Semenya,” *New Yorker*, November 30, 2009

-Cheryl Cooky & Shari Dworkin, “Policing the Boundaries of Sex: A Critical Examination of Gender Verification and the Caster Semenya Controversy,” *Journal of Sex Research*, February-March 2013

-Laurent DuBois, *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France*.

**December 1**: CONCLUSION

CONTEMPORARY SPORT: articles from today (student choice)

Sternbergh, “The Thrill of Defeat for Sports Fans,” *NYT*, October 21, 2011

**FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5PM TO HISTORY DEPARTMENT ON LAST DAY OF READING PERIOD**