

**HL90BO: Sports and Empire**  
Daniel Loss ([dloss@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dloss@fas.harvard.edu))

Barker Center 128  
Thursdays, 1pm-3pm

Office hours: Tuesdays, 2pm-4pm and by appointment in Barker 043

One of the enduring legacies of modern imperialism has been the spread of British and American sports around the globe. This seminar takes the connection between sports and imperialism as a starting point to explore questions about the nature of imperialism, the response of colonized peoples to imperial projects, and the persistent connections between imperialism and globalization. The British Empire will be our main focus, though there are several weeks devoted to American imperialism – thinking comparatively across empires is one of the chief goals of this course.

As a History & Literature seminar, this course is focused primarily (though not exclusively) on the analysis of primary sources, both historical and literary. Course readings include novels, poems, memoirs, rulebooks, and essays. Over the course of the semester, students will develop their research, close reading, and writing skills, culminating in a final research paper. Regular participation in class discussions is expected from all students.

**Requirements and grading**

- Class participation – 20%
- Close reading #1 (3-4 pages) – 15%
- Close reading #2 (3-4 pages) – 15%
- “Ventriloquism” dialogue, review, or essay (5-page minimum) – 15%
- Annotated bibliography – 5%
- Draft of final paper (8-page minimum) – 5%
- Final paper (10-12 pages) – 25%

**Policies**

**Attendance**

You are expected to attend all class meetings. I recognize, however, that things inevitably come up. Each student, therefore, is allowed on unexcused absence. Further unexcused absences will require the completion of make-up work to be discussed with me.

**Academic Integrity**

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc), you must also acknowledge this assistance. Please contact me if you have questions about appropriate citation practices.

### **Late work**

All written work must be submitted via Canvas by 5pm on the day that it is due. If you have concerns about meeting a due date, please contact me at least a week in advance to set up alternative arrangements.

### **Communication**

During the week, I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours (often much faster). My responses may be slower during the weekend.

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a document disability must present their Faculty Letter from the Accessible Education Office (AEO) and speak with me by the end of the second week of the semester (September 11). Failure to do so may result in my inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, though I may contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

### Materials

The following books are required and are available for purchase at the Coop:

- Sherman Alexie, *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
- Amy Bass, *Not the Triumph but the Struggle*
- Nick Hornby, *Fever Pitch*
- C.L.R. James, *Beyond a Boundary*
- Eduardo Galeano, *Soccer in Sun and Shadow*

There is also a coursepack available for purchase at the Coop that contains readings for this course. All other readings can be found through the Canvas site, either as PDFs or as linked e-reserves.

### Schedule

## September 3: Course Introduction

## September 10: Theorizing Imperialism

### Readings

- John A. Hobson, *Imperialism: A Study* (1902), pp. 1-12, 207-234 [PDF available on Canvas, complete text available through Google Books]
- Tomlinson, John. *Cultural Imperialism: A Critical Introduction*. London: Pinter Publishers, 1991, pp. 1-33, 173-179 [PDF available on Canvas]
- Stoddart, Brian. "Sport, Cultural Imperialism, and Colonial Response in the British Empire." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 30, no. 4 (October 1988): 649–73. [e-reserve]

### *Unit 1: Writing the rules*

## September 17: Muscular Christianity and the Corinthian Ideal

### Readings

- Thomas Hughes, *Tom Brown's School Days* (1857), [available through Google Books, Project Gutenberg. Inexpensive editions are also available through Amazon, AbeBooks, etc.]
- Henry Newbolt, "Vital Lampada" (1898) [coursepack]
- A.E. Housman, "To An Athlete Dying Young" (1896) [available here: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/175749>]
- Articles from the *Times* on penalty kicks in soccer [coursepack]

## **CLOSE READING #1 DUE AT 5PM ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

## September 24: The Birth of American Sports

### Readings

- "Casey at the Bat" (1888) [available here: <http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/casey-bat>]
- *Basket ball for women* (1905), selections [PDF available on Canvas]
- Albert Spalding, *America's National Game* (1911) [PDF available on Canvas]

### *Unit 2: Spreading the gospel of sports*

## October 1: Imperialism, Amateurism, and the Politics of Sports in the British Empire

## Readings

- S. Sathianadhan, *Four Years in an English University* (1893) [e-reserve]
- Mangan, J.A. "Soccer as Moral Training: Missionary Intentions and Imperial Legacies." In *Soccer in South Asia: Empire, Nation, Diaspora*, edited by Paul Dimeo and James Mills, 41–56. London and Portland, Oregon: F. Cass, 2001. [coursepack]
- Guha, Ramachandra. "Cricket and Politics in Colonial India." *Past & Present* 161 (November 1998): 155–90. [e-reserve]
- Gorman, Daniel. "Amateurism, Imperialism, Internationalism and the First British Empire Games." *International Journal of the History of Sport* 27, no. 4 (2010): 611–34. [e-reserve]

## **October 8: Sports and American Empire**

### Readings

- Elias, Robert. *The Empire Strikes Out: How Baseball Sold U.S. Foreign Policy and Promoted the American Way Abroad*. New York: The New Press, 2010, pp. 1-19, 37-53 [coursepack]
- Gems, Gerald R. "The Athletic Crusade: Sport and Colonialism in the Philippines." *International Journal of the History of Sport* 21, no. 1 (January 2004): 1–15. [e-reserve]
- Roden, Donald. "Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan." *American Historical Review* 85, no. 3 (June 1980): 511–34. [e-reserve]

## **CLOSE READING #2 DUE AT 5PM ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**

### *Unit 3: Contesting Colonialism*

## **October 15: Caribbean Cricket**

### Readings

- James, C.L.R. *Beyond a Boundary*. 50th anniversary ed. Durham: Duke University Press, 2013. [available for purchase at the Coop]
- Naipaul, V.S. "Hat." In *Miguel Street*, 199–214. New York: Vintage International, 2002. [coursepack]
- Anim-Addo, Joan. *Janie: Cricketing Lady: A Journey Poem (1920s-2004) with Carnival and Hurricane Poems*. London: Mango Publishing, 2006, pp. 10-44 [coursepack]

Film viewing (optional): *Fire in Babylon* (2010)

## **October 22: Anti-Colonialism and the 1968 Olympics**

## Readings

- Carmichael, Stokely, and Charles V. Hamilton. *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America*. New York: Vintage Books, 1967, pp. 2-32 [PDF available on Canvas]
- Bass, Amy. *Not the Triumph but the Struggle: The 1968 Olympics and the Making of the Black Athlete*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002, chapters 3, 5-7. [available for purchase at the Coop]

ASSIGNMENT: Bring to class a contemporary reaction to the Black Power controversy at the 1968 Olympics. I especially encourage you to look for non-American sources. We'll discuss in class how you might go about finding these.

## **October 29: The Sporting Boycott of Apartheid South Africa**

Film viewing (required): *Patu!* (1983)

## Readings

- Booth, Douglas. "Hitting Apartheid for Six? The Politics of The South African Sports Boycott." *Journal of Contemporary History* 38, no. 3 (July 2003): 477–93. [e-reserve]
- Edwards, James, ed. *Racist Rugby: Front-Line Poets Respond*. Auckland: James Edwards, 1981. [coursepack]
- Bass, *Not the Triumph but the Struggle*, chapter 4.

## **"VENTRILOQUISM" ASSIGNMENT DUE AT 5PM ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**

*Unit 4: Indigenous Responses*

## **November 5: Native Americans and the Question of Assimilation**

## Readings

- Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2009. [available for purchase at the Coop]
- Bloom, John. *To Show What an Indian Can Do: Sports at Native American Boarding Schools*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000, selections [coursepack]
- Anderson, Eric D. "Using the Master's Tools: Resisting Colonization through Colonial Sports." In *Native Americans and Sport in North America: Other People's Games*, edited by C. Richard King, 110–29. London and New York: Routledge, 2008. [coursepack]

## **November 12: Indigeneity in the British Empire**

Film viewing (required): *Trobriand Cricket* (1979)

## Readings

- Hokowhitu, Brendan. "Māori Rugby and Subversion: Creativity, Domestication, Oppression and Decolonization." *International Journal of the History of Sport* 26, no. 16 (2009): 2314–34. [e-reserve]
- Hallinan, Chris, and Barry Judd. "Race Relations, Indigenous Australia and the Social Impact of Professional Australian Football." *Sport in Society* 12, no. 9 (2009): 1220–35. [e-reserve]

## **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE AT 5PM ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

### *Unit 5: Economics and Entertainment in a Globalized World*

#### **November 19: Athletes as Artists, Athletes as Laborers**

##### Readings

- Galeano, Eduardo. *Soccer in Sun and Shadow*. New York: Nation Books, 2013. [available for purchase at the Coop]
- Klein, Alan. "Baseball as Underdevelopment: The Political-Economy of Sport in the Dominican Republic." *Sport in Society* 10, no. 6 (2007): 896–915. [e-reserve]
- Furmston, M.P. "Retain and Transfer System Offside." *Modern Law Review* 27, no. 2 (1964): 210–16. [e-reserve]

#### **November 26: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING**

## **DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE AT 5PM ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1.**

#### **December 3: Television and Global Sports Culture**

##### Readings

- Hornby, Nick. *Fever Pitch*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1998, pp. 9-59, 73-78 (more if you'd like) [available for purchase at the Coop]
- Sandvoss, Cornel. *A Game of Two Halves: Football, Television and Globalization*. London and New York: Routledge, 2003, pp. 67-100 [coursepack]
- Astill, James. *The Great Tamasha: Cricket, Corruption, and the Spectacular Rise of Modern India*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2013, pp. 58-86 [coursepack]

## **FINAL PAPER DUE AT 5PM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19**