A. Course Goals:
This course is an experiment, as any political science course devoted to the “trivial” and the “nonpolitical” inevitably must be. It will explore the tentative theoretical proposition that, in certain contexts and cultures, political scientists should conceive sport as an integral part of the political sector. Long the province of historians, sociologists, and economists, political scientists have, for the most part, not envisaged the world of sports as falling within either the political sphere or their professional purview. After all, unless one is a professional athlete or involved in sports in some other professional capacity (coach, trainer, executive, writer, journalist, broadcaster, agent, lawyer, business contractor, and so forth), sport is at best a recreational activity. This holds true both for those who participate in some capacity, as well as for those who merely observe from the comfort of their couch or from the Olympian heights of a barstool. In other words, whether one is a participant, an observer, or simply not interested, almost by “definition” sport is trivial. Why should we study sport when there are far more critical issues crying out for attention? Indeed, in those rare instances when political scientists actively consider sports, they are usually inclined to consign them either to the “private” sector or to the domain of civil society.

Something is amiss, however. Although there is no recognized sub-field of political science that focuses on the politics of sport, in most of the world there are ministries of sport and sports are an integral part of the public, political sphere even when teams and leagues are privately owned and operated. Furthermore, depending on the time, place, and context, sports often evoke the intense emotions usually associated with nationalism, race, ethnicity, social class, religion, and...
gender, as well as with the politics of identity more generally. Trivial? Nonpolitical? This is politics writ large and this course will devote substantial attention to these broader issues.

Sport is also, and often, politics writ small. This means two things. The first is that sport may be seen as a microcosm of the larger society in which it is embedded and that, therefore, whatever political fault lines may appear in the wider realm of politics are also likely to appear in the smaller political arena of sport. Sport may thus be used as a point of entry to the study of various political forces in any society. The second way in which sport is politics writ small is that for many individuals, sport occupies a significant space in what we might call the subjacent, or “unthinking,” politics of daily life. This, for example, might well have something to do with how we relate to figures and structures of authority; how we understand “rules,” competition, cheating, and corruption; how we internalize and come to understand certain lessons of power; or how we think of subjects as varied as merit and reward, just and legitimate punishment, participation, inclusion and exclusion, and the proper parameters of the political community. One goal of this course, then, is to begin a comparative and multinational exploration of the politics of sport that examines the intersections of sports and politics — writ both large and small. A second goal, far more difficult to achieve, is to encourage all of us to think about politics, and sports, in new and different ways. The political-economy, political culture, and the political sociology of sport, as well as the many and varied intersections of politics and sport in various corners of the globe will be the subject of our collective deliberations.

During this semester we shall also consider indirectly a number of other themes and questions. In no particular order, but interspersed throughout the course, we shall consider the role of sport in the social and political imaginary, the political (or “non-political”) status of top-flight professional athletes, the role of sport in collective and individual memory and the political consequences of this, and the globalization of sport. Although most of our attention will be focused on football (soccer) and baseball, other sports will certainly be welcomed both in our discussions and as sources of possible term paper topics.

B. Course Requirements:
Credits: 3
Level: Advanced
Breadth: Social Science
Pre-Reqs: Sophomore standing and PS 120 (106) or 182 (186)
L&S Credit: C

This is a 3-credit course so there will be two 75-minute lectures each week. We will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:45 p.m. in Ingraham 224. It is expected that students will attend. “Lecture” should not imply that your questions, comments, and observations are out of order. Far from it. Within the limits imposed by a moderately large class, time, and the necessity of completing the course outline, student participation is actively encouraged for the instructor values dialogue more than monologue. It is thus essential that students do the reading on time (by Wednesday of each week), and appear in lecture ready to share their questions, thoughts, and observations. Since the politics of sport is often contentious and controversial,
respectful and open-minded discussion will be important throughout the semester. Students are thus expected and encouraged to participate regularly.

To facilitate a friendly and comfortable learning environment for all, recording devices of any sort will be permitted only with the instructor’s consent. In addition, and with the same goal in mind, all cell phones, pagers, and other such devices should be turned off during our class sessions. Students wishing to use laptops to take notes may do so, but please observe the following simple rules of etiquette: a) be sure your sound is off at the beginning of class; b) please stay focused on the course: surfing, gaming, or checking out the Facebook status of your friends is distracting to those around you; c) during certain periods laptops may be prohibited (during exams or films, for example), so please respect these times; and d) students using computers to take notes must sit in the first two rows.

There will be a mid-term examination on Monday, 5 March 2018 as well as a two-hour final examination on Sunday, 6 May 2018 starting at 5:05 p.m. (Please note well that since you have been alerted to this unfortunate bit of university scheduling on day one of the semester, and since it has been readily available on the web since last fall, requests to take the final at alternative times because you have scored tickets for the Brewers game against the Pirates that evening or because of your own summer vacation travel arrangements will not fall on sympathetic ears.) Please note as well that the class will not meet on Wednesday, 21 March 2018. This session will be made up toward the end of the semester by an optional review session before the final exam. The time and place will be determined later.

In addition, undergraduates will submit a 2,500 word (roughly 10 typewritten pages) term paper dealing with a contemporary aspect of the comparative or international dimensions of sport. Graduate students (as well as undergraduate honors students) should submit a lengthier, more theoretically focused, paper of 5,000 words (or 20 typewritten pages). Honors students should treat the requirement of a lengthier paper as the “default” option. Other possibilities exist for fulfilling the honors requirement exist and the instructor will be happy to discuss them with you. All papers are due on Wednesday, 18 April 2018, but will be welcomed earlier. Late papers are a serious “no-no,” and will be penalized severely.

All students should also submit a one-page, typewritten statement of the proposed topic which tentatively indicates some of the sources to be consulted. These paper proposals are due no later than Monday, 26 February 2018, but will also be welcomed earlier. Consultations with the instructor will then be arranged for all students desiring, or needing, them. All term paper topics must be approved in this way. Although these paper proposals will not be graded, students failing to submit them will not receive a passing grade. Similarly, all required work must be submitted to be eligible to receive a passing grade. (Students affiliated with the McBurney Center are warmly and strongly encouraged to see the instructor as soon as possible if they are going to need any sort of alternate arrangements.)

At the end of the semester I expect that all students will have achieved a certain facility in understanding the comparative politics of sport, as well as policies pertaining to sport, in a
variety of global settings. To do this they will have to master a body of empirical knowledge and learn how to analyze it creatively and perceptively while understanding that the same sports occur in a wide variety of cultural, political, and normative contexts. In other words, baseball in Japan may well have very different political and cultural effects than baseball in either the U.S. or Latin America. In addition, baseball (or any sport) may emphasize normative values that are entirely different depending on the setting. Seeing the invisible, hearing silence, and thinking the unthinkable will be crucial and are critical analytical skills we shall develop throughout the semester.

Finally, students should use their university e-mail addresses so that they will be able to receive and post messages of interest pertaining to the subject matter of the course. The list address for this course is: polisci635-1-s18@lists.wisc.edu.

C. Grading Criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Term paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Where possible, the instructor will reward exceptional cases of sustained, consistent, intelligent, and creative class participation with a grading bonus at the end of the semester. Borderline cases will also be determined on the basis of class participation.

D. Readings:
The following books will be used extensively. In theory, the University Book Store and the reserve reading room of the College Library in Helen C. White Hall should have copies available. They are also all available online from various vendors, as well as in various digital formats. Please note: it is required that you read these books, not that you buy them.


In the course outline which follows, some readings are required (*); others are recommended (#) for those wishing to pursue a subject further. Required books should be on three-hour reserve in
the College Library at Helen C. White Hall. In addition, all required articles may be accessed both through Learn@UW (Canvas Course Page: https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/90624) and the following web link: http://faculty.polisci.wisc.edu/schatzberg/ps635. (Throughout the remainder of this syllabus this will be abbreviated as [web].) Some of the recommended articles may also be accessed through other indicated links or directly through MadCat. You may need to access these from a UW email or web address, but the relevant journal articles should then be accessible. To facilitate easy access, I will send electronic copies of this syllabus (in WordPerfect, Word, Adobe pdf, and html) to the classlist. This syllabus will also be accessible through [web] and Learn@UW.

E. Course Outline:

1–Organization and Introduction 24 January 2018


#Grant Farred, *In Motion, At Rest: The Event of the Athletic Body* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014).


2–Basic Structures, 1: Initial Concerns

*Szymanski and Zimbalist, National Pastime, 1-145.*


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**3–Basic Structures, 2: Individual Lives & International Structures** 7 February 2018

*Szymanski and Zimbalist, National Pastime, 146-215.


## 4–Basic Structures, 3: Individual Lives & International Structures  14 February 2018

*Conn,* *The Fall of the House of FIFA,* 111-218.

#Junwei Yu, “China’s Foreign Policy in Sport: The Primacy of National Security and Territorial Integrity Concerning the Taiwan Question,” *China Quarterly* 194 (June 2008): 294-308.

5. Football’s Political Side

21 February 2018


6–Nation, Race, Class, 1

28 February 2018

***1-PAGE PAPER PROPOSALS DUE: MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2018***


# Brian R. Sala, John T. Scott and James F. Spriigs, “The Cold War on Ice: Constructivism and the Politics of Olympic Figure Skating Judging,” *Perspectives on Politics* 5:1 (March 2007): 17-29. [web]


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**7 – Analytic Interlude, 1**

7 March 2018

***MID-TERM EXAMINATION: MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2018***

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**8 – Nation, Race, Class, 2**

14 March 2018


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**9–Case Studies, 1: Latin American Soccer**

21 March 2018

***NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, 21 MARCH 2018***

*Nadel, *Futbol!: Why Soccer Matters in Latin America*, 148-244.


#Alex Bellos, *Futebol: Soccer, the Brazilian Way* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2002).


**SPRING BREAK**

**10–Case Studies, 2: South African Soccer**


#Aarti Ratna, “‘Who are ya?’ The national identities and belongings of British Asian football fans,” Patterns of Prejudice 48:3 (2014): 286-308. [web]

11–Case Studies, 3: U.S. Universities (1) 11 April 2018


#Peter Alegi, “‘A Nation to be Reckoned with’: The Politics of World Cup Stadium Construction in Cape Town and Durban, South Africa,” *African Studies* 67:3 (December 2008): 397-422. [web]


12–Analytic Interlude, 2

***TERM PAPER DUE: WEDNESDAY, 18 APRIL 2018***

13–Case Studies, 4: U.S. Universities (2)


*Smith and Willingham, *Cheated*, 1-146.*

#Sarah K. Fields, *Female Gladiators: Gender, Law, and Contact Sport in America* (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2004).

**14–Case Studies, 5: The UNC Scandal & Final Thoughts** 2 May 2018

*Smith and Willingham, Cheated, 147-250.


#John Amaechi with Chris Bull, Man in the Middle (New York: ESPN Books, 2007).


#Grant Farred, Long Distance Love: A Passion for Football (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008.)


#S. W. Pope, Patriotic Games: Sporting Traditions in the American Imagination, 1876-1926 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997).


#Kurt Edward Kemper, *College Football and American Culture in the Cold War Era* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2010).

***FINAL EXAMINATION:***

***SUNDAY, 6 MAY 2018, 5:05 p.m. - 7:05 p.m., LOCATION: T.B.A.***