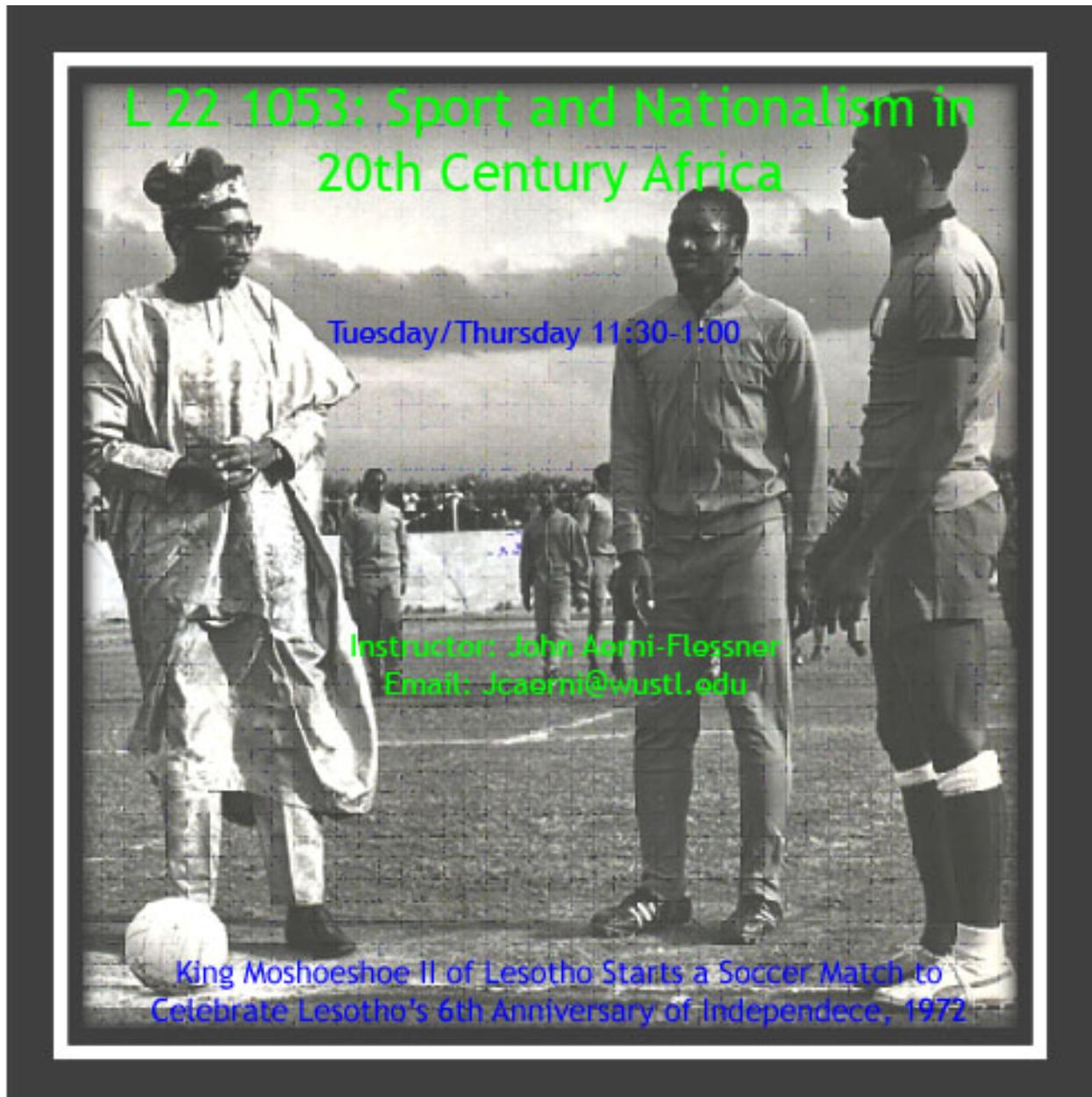


Freshman Seminar in History



Instructor Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11, Busch Hall 105

Or by appointment

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Description:

Nationalism is often studied purely as a political force, both in colonial states and post-colonial nation-states. An examination of sport and society through the twentieth century in Africa shows that people have used sport and other leisure activities to press social and political agendas that extend beyond the field or court. Sports reflect and sometimes precede changing social conditions and how ordinary people interacted with the colonial and post-independence state. This course looks at examples from football (soccer) clubs in colonial Africa that challenged segregation to efforts to get *apartheid* South Africa banned from international sport and sports-as-spectacle events like the 1974 “Rumble in the Jungle” boxing match between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman. Using a variety of primary and secondary sources from multiple disciplines and media (film, music, photographs, written documents, etc) this course introduces students to the study of history in Africa by examining the changing relations of African people with the state in the 20th century through the lenses of sport and leisure. The course will ask you to critically engage with these different sources in order to better understand how people in different African settings have used sport and leisure activities as recreational devices and also as means to bring about greater political, economic, national and social changes.

Course Website:

The course material is available on a website that I will update frequently with announcements. The reading questions there will help you better focus your reading, and you will also find the slides we use in class. The site is “by invitation” only to protect copyright on the readings.

The url is: <http://sites.google.com/sites/africa1053>

Policies:

- Attendance at all classes is required
- Late assignments receive a penalty of half a letter grade for every day they are overdue
- Papers are due at class time on the day they are assigned. Papers that are not in my hands or in my email inbox at 11:37 on the day due are considered late.

You have all read and signed the University's policies on Academic Integrity. I will hold you to those standards and all transgressions of them will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Texts:

There is one text that is required for purchase. You can find it in the bookstore and it is available at online retailers.

Peter Alegi. [African Soccerescapes: How a Continent Changed the World's Game](#). Athens: Ohio University Press, 2010.

I would also recommend buying:

Phyllis Martin. [Leisure and Society in Colonial Brazzaville](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

You can download the other readings for the course from the course website.

Assessments:

Midterm Examination:	20%
Critical Film Response:	10%
Document Preparation:	10%
Document Presentation:	10%
In-Class Group Exercise:	20%
Final Essay:	30%

Midterm Examination:

This exam will be given in class. It will be an essay asking you to respond to a prompt over ideas that we have covered extensively in the first half of the course. The aim is to synthesize ideas and to explore how to make historical arguments, using a variety of sources of evidence. This is worth 20% of your final grade.

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Critical Film Response:

We will be screening the documentary, *When We Were Kings*, about the 1974 Muhammad Ali-George Foreman world championship boxing match in Kinshasa, Zaire in class. You will be expected to write a two-page response paper drawing on the main themes of the course. The film was made for an American audience, but we will be focusing on reading the source for what it can tell us about contemporary Zaire. The focus here is on critically reading a source for purposes other than its authors intended. This is worth 10% of your final grade.

Document Preparation and Presentation:

In the course of the semester we will delve more deeply into primary source materials in order to better understand the nature of social change. You will be asked to present a document (from a list circulated in class) giving its context and some preliminary conclusions about what we can learn from a critical reading of the source. You will be required to meet with me before you present the document and on the day you do the presentation, you will turn in a one-page sheet detailing the key points of your presentation. The preparation sheet and the presentation itself are each worth 20% of your final grade.

In-Class Group Exercise:

We will have a debate in class on the effectiveness of international sports sanctions to effect social change in other countries. The class will be divided into groups ahead of time, representing different constituencies in the debate ranging from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to the *apartheid* South African government, South African anti-*apartheid* activists and representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Commonwealth sports bodies. The groups will have to prepare talking points ahead of time for the structured in-class debate based on documents provided in part by the instructor and in part by the students' own research. After the debate, each group will be responsible for writing up a short summary of their arguments, showing how 'their' organization views the relationship of sport and society.

Final Essay:

The final for the course will be an in-class essay. You will be asked to examine some short readings on a topic of African sport and asked to relate this case to the themes of the course. You will be expected to make a strong argument about the relationship between sport and society, defending it through examples from the readings presented. This will give you an opportunity to pull together the key themes from the course and see how they are playing out as African history 'goes forward'.

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Course Schedule:

The Significance of Sport in Society

Week 1: Week of August 30th

Class 1: Introductory Class, hand out syllabus

- Map exercise
- Barefoot Soccer with Handmade Plastic Bag Balls

Class 2: What is leisure? What is sport? Why does it matter?

- “Leisure in African History: An Introduction” by Emmanuel Akyeampong and Charles Ambler. *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 35:1 (2002) 1-16
- Phyllis Martin. “Introduction” to Leisure and Society in Colonial Brazzaville.

Week 2: Week of September 6th

Class 3: Nationalism

- Benedict Anderson, “Imagined Communities.” Chapters 1-3. “Introduction”, “Cultural Roots” and “The Origins of National Consciousness.”

Class 4: Sport in Society: How do we Understand Society Through Sport?

- Kenny Moore. “A Courageous Stand: In '68, Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos Raised Their Fists for Racial Justice” *Sports Illustrated*. August 5, 1991.

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Development of Sport and Leisure in Africa

Week 3: Week of September 13th

Class 5: Were sporting events a 'foreign' import?

- Emmanuel Akyeampong. "Bukom and the Social History of Boxing in Accra: Warfare and Citizenship in Precolonial Ga Society." *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. 35:1 (2002) 39-60

Class 6: Developing colonialism in the early 20th century

- Phyllis Martin. Chapters 2 and 3 from Leisure and Society in Colonial Brazzaville. "Taking Hold of the Town, 1915-1960" and "The Emergence of Leisure."

Sports and Colonialism

Week 4: Week of September 20th

Class 7: Introduction of Sport in the Colonial Setting

- Markku Hokkanen. "'Christ and the Imperial Games' Fields' in South-Central Africa—Sport and the Scottish Missionaries in Malawi, 1880-1914: Utilitarian Compromise." *The International Journal of the History of Sport*. 22:4 (2005). 745-769
- J.A. Mangan. "Soccer as Moral Training: Missionary Intentions and Imperial Legacies." *Soccer and Society*. 2:2 (2001). 41-56

Class 8: Soccer in the Colonial Setting

- Peter Alegi. African Soccerscapes: How a Continent Changed the World's Game. Chapter 2, "The Africanization of Football, 1920s/1940s"
- Phyllis Martin. "Colonialism, Youth and Football in French Equatorial Africa." *International Journal of the History of Sport*. 8:1 (1991). 56-71

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Week 5: Week of September 27th

Class 9: Document Presentation #1

- Will be assigned off document list. Check course website.

Class 10: Soccer as a challenge to the racial order of colonialism

- Laura Fair. "Kickin' It: Leisure, Politics and Football in Colonial Zanzibar, 1900s-1950s." *Africa*. 67: 2 (1997) 224-251

Week 6: Week of October 4th

Class 11: Document Presentations #2

- Will be assigned off document list. Check course website.

Class 12: The Role of Sport in Changing Politics and Perceptions

- Peter Alegi. African Soccerscapes: How a Continent Changed the World's Game. Chapter 3, "Making Nations in Late Colonial Africa, 1940s/1964"
- Phil Vasili. "Colonialism and Football: The First Nigerian Tour to Britain." *Race and Class*. 36:4 (1995). 55-70

Sports and Independence

Week 7: Week of October 11th

Class 13: **Midterm Exam (in class)**

Class 14: Film Screening: "When We Were Kings"

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Week 8: Week of October 18th

Class 15: **Film Response Papers Due**

Sport in the Era of Independence—An International Political Weapon

- Hamad Ndee “Sport as Political Tool: Tanzania and the Liberation of Africa.” *International Journal of the History of Sport*. 22:4 (2005). 671-688

Class 16: Document Presentations #3

- Will be assigned off document list. Check course website.

Who Defines ‘the nation’?

Week 9: Week of October 25th

Class 17: Multiple nationalisms and sport

- C.L.R. James biography: http://www.runmuki.com/paul/CLR_James.html
- C.L.R. James. Beyond a Boundary. Chapter 2. “Against the Current.”

Class 18: African nationhood and sport

- Peter Alegi. African Soccerscapes: How a Continent Changed the World's Game. Chapter 4, “Nationhood, Pan-Africanism and Football After Independence.”

Week 10: Week of November 1st

Class 19: Gender in African sports

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Class 20: Gender, Leisure Time and Entertainment

- Phyllis Martin. Leisure and Society. Chapters 5 and 6. “About the Town” and “Dressing Well.”

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



South Africa, *Apartheid* and Boycotts

Week 11: Week of November 8th

Class 21: Development of sport in South Africa

- Cecile Badenhorst and Charles Mather. "Recreation and Recreating Tribalism: Culture, Leisure and Social Control on South Africa's Gold Mines, 1940-1950." *Journal of Southern African Studies*. 23:2 (1997). 473-489
- Albert Grundlingh. "Playing for Power? Rugby, Afrikaner Nationalism and Masculinity in South Africa, C. 1900-1970." *International Journal of the History of Sport*. 11:3 (1994). 408-430

Class 22: An Introduction to *Apartheid* and the sports boycott movement

- Douglas Booth. [The Race Game: Sport and Politics in South Africa](#). Chapters 3 and 4. "Apartheid and Sport" and "The Sports Boycott."

Week 10: Week of November 15th

Class 23: Who gets to participate and when?

- Goolam Vahed. "Cultural Confrontation: Race, Politics and Cricket in South Africa in the 1970s and 1980s." *Culture, Sport, Society*. 5:2 (2002). 79-107
- Peter Donnelly. "1968 and All That: Social Change and the Social Sciences of Sport." *Sport in Society*. 13:1 (2010). 1-5

Class 24: **In-class group exercise: The effectiveness of sports sanctions**

- Some documents will be handed to each group, but each group is also responsible for finding 1-2 outside sources to support the positions you will take in the in-class debate.

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Contemporary Sport, the Nation and Economic Opportunity

Week 13: Week of November 22nd

Class 25: **IN-CLASS DEBATE SUMMARIES DUE AT CLASSTIME**

Case Study: East African Runners

- Wanjohi Kabukuru. "Kenya: Athletes for Sale?" *New African*. July 2005. 30
- Paul Gains. "Yifter, Always Running for Ethiopia, Now Runs Far Away From It." *New York Times*. October 26, 1997.
- Tamara Lave. "The Runner's Witness: Wearing the Flag." *Running Times*. November 2008.

Class 26: No class, Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Week of November 29th

Class 27: Review and Question Time

- Readings for the Final will be handed out in class.

Class 28: **Final in-class essay.**

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Document List for Presentations:

Students must pick a document for an in-class presentation. The documents are organized by the class in which they will present. You should pick a document that is of interest to you. Your job with the document is to give it context and a tentative explanation for how it might help us to understand better the society in which it was produced. Possible avenues for doing this include answering some of the following questions:

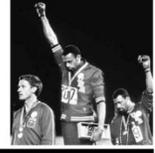
- Who is the author?
- When was this document produced?
- Who produced it and why was it created at this particular time?
- What message might the author have been trying to get across to his/her audience?
- What is important about the actions or thoughts of the participants in this document?
- How might people have read the document differently than the author intended?
- How was the document consumed (who was the audience and how might they have reacted to it)?
- What made the creation of this document at this specific time possible or timely?

Below is a list of the documents to choose from. The actual documents or links to them can be found on the course website under the “Documents” tab.

Document Presentation #1 (Class 9)

- 1951 Lesotho-South Africa soccer fixture (letter from sports officials in Lesotho to officials in South Africa)
- East African High School Sporting Program (from Humphrey Winterton Collection, Northwestern University)
- Abebe Bikila winning the 1960s Rome marathon barefoot (photographs)
- Dance competition in Kenya and fly whisk (photographs)
- Senegalese Wrestling (photographs and text)

L 22 1053: Sport and Nationalism in 20th Century Africa



Document Presentation #2 (Class 11)

- Photograph of Lesotho's first Olympian, Motsapi Moorosi, with African-American gold-medalist Mal Whitfield with accompanying newspaper article from *Lesotho Times*.
- Sport in Lesotho, article from local newspaper *Leselinyana la Lesotho*
- Ali-Foreman Poster, Kinshasa 1974
- Report on the 1963 African Cup of Nations
Tournament: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfaZpINXcUY>
- Mandela and Pienaar with the 1995 Rugby World Cup trophy (photograph)

Document Presentation #3 (Class 16)

- Photograph of Lesotho's King Moshoeshoe II ceremonially starting a soccer match in 1972
- Olympic Boycott 1968, New York Times article
- Interview with 1965 Ghanaian soccer player: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ziTHdOEUJE&feature=related>
- Namibia netball team (photograph) and description of the game (text file)
- Kenyan runners (photograph)