

Geschichte des Kalten Krieges als Sportgeschichte – The Cold War as Sports History.

**Hauptseminar Praxis- und Projektmodul,
Osteuropäische Geschichte.
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, Sommersemester 2017.**

Details:

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Harms, victoria.harms@herder-institut.de

Hours & Location: Thurs., 12 – 2 pm, Phil. I, C 029

Office hours: Thurs, 2 pm – 4 pm, and by appointment

Requirements

- No need to be a sports buff!
- Come to class prepared and on time.
- No language barrier: English is encouraged, but your choice of language will be respected! Be aware of the following:
 - Assigned readings will be mostly in English.
 - Movies will be mostly in English or with English subtitles.
 - You are free to choose the language of written assignments.

Course Description

In this seminar, we will investigate the interdependences between sports and societies during the Cold War. The lessons drawn in this class enhance our overall understanding of the inextricable ties between sports, politics, and society then and now.

We will seek answers to questions such as: How is the Cold War reflected in sports, sports competition and athletic bodies? What do we learn from sports about individual and collective identities during the Cold War? How has the Cold War shaped sports nationally and internationally? What can we learn from sports about a putative Cold War way of thinking?

Sports here are defined as physical activities for leisure and for competition. As a period, the Cold War is understood as the time between 1948 and 1991. As a concept, the Cold War also represents a cognitive framework shaping social structures, power hierarchies, as well as gender, racial, ethnic, and political identities.

Sports history facilitates engaging with and understanding the history of Cold War as well as its lasting legacy. This seminar is based on the premise that sports are as much a reflection of society as they are a constitutive part thereof. Thus, they possess the power to confirm and cement but also challenge and change social structures.

In the course of this term, we will revisit some of the key landmarks of Cold War sports history, such as the soccer championships of 1954 and 1974, the rise of doping, the Olympic boycotts of 1980 and 1984. We will explore socially constructed concepts such as gender, race, nation, and developments such as decolonization, commercialization, and globalization within and as part of the East-West-conflict. The focus will lie mostly on the United States, West Germany, Hungary, East Germany and the Soviet Union.

Assignments

- On any **one** of a week's assigned readings (*not all*), prepare a concise **reading note** about the topic, research questions, theses, and sources (max. half a page). Please upload the reading note to Stud.IP before class.
- **Watch at least two** of the assigned feature and/or documentary films.
- **Assignment of your choice (A OR B):**
 - A) Give a **15-minute-presentation** on **either** a topic of your choice, a selection of primary sources, a movie **or** a monograph you read related to our seminar.
 - B) Write a **two-page-review** on **one** of the assigned movies in relation to our class and its historical valence. Due: 18 June 2017.
- Write a **four-page-paper** on a topic of your choice. Consult with the instructor first and peruse a selection of assigned readings and movies. You are encouraged to consult websites and additional material on the topic. Due: 02 July 2017.

Grading scheme:

30% in-class participation
30% Reading notes
20% Presentation **OR** Movie Review
20% Essay

All written assignments (hand-in papers and contributions to the website) will be graded based on strength of **argument**, supporting **evidence** (primary and secondary sources), **structure**, **coherence**, and **style**.

Learning objectives

- ✓ Engaging in and stimulating team work and group discussions
- ✓ Public presentation of arguments, opinions, and facts
- ✓ Critical analyses and contextualization of textual and visual sources
- ✓ Composing scholarly arguments, research questions, and theses

Feature and Documentary Films

(Choose **two** to watch, and write a paper on **one** of those three)

Children of Glory [Szabadság, Szerelem], dir. by Krisztina Goda, 2006.

White Palms [Fehér Tényer], dir. by Szabolcs Hajdú, 2006.

Miracle, dir. by Gavin O'Connor, 2004.

Das Wunder von Bern, dir. by Sönke Wortmann, 2003.

Rocky IV, dir. by Sylvester Stalone, 1985.

Das Deutsche Duell – Ein Fussballspiel im Kalten Krieg, produced by ARD, 2015.

"Doping for Gold," in *Secrets of the Dead*, PBS, 2011.

Puskás' Hungary, dir. by Tamás Almási, 2009.

Bigger, Faster, Stronger, dir. by Christopher Bell, 2008.

SCHEDULE

20 April 2017

Introduction: What is 'Sports History'?

To be read in class (copies will be made available): 16 pages

- Gorn, Elliot, and Michael Oriard. "Taking Sports Seriously." *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (24 March 1995). [3 pages]
- Alexander, Lisa Doris. "Sports History: What's Next?". *Journal of American History* 101, no. 1 (2014): 173-75.

27 April 2017

Sports and the Cold War

Reading load: 27 pages

- Stieglitz, Olaf, and Jürgen Martschukat. "Sportgeschichte." *Docupedia - Zeitgeschichte* Version: 1.0 (2012). Published electronically 2 February 2012. https://docupedia.de/zg/Stieglitz_martschukat_sportgeschichte_v2_de_2016.
- Edelman, Robert, Anke Hilbrenner, and Susan Brownell. "Sport under Communism." In *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Communism*, edited by Stephen A. Smith, 602-16. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

4 May 2017

Sports, Communism, and Eastern Europe

Reading load: 60 pages (CHOOSE ONE)

- Rider, Toby C. "Eastern Europe's Unwanted: Exiled Athletes and the Olympic Games, 1948-1964." *Journal of Sport History* 40, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 435-53.
- Prozumenchshikov, Mikhail Iu. "Sports as a Mirror of Eastern Europe's Crises." *Russian Studies in History* 49, no. 2 (Fall 2010): 51-93.

11 May 2017

The Olympic Movement

Reading load: 20 pages

- Wamsley, Kevin B. "The Global Sport Monopoly: A Synopsis of 20th Century Olympic Politics." *International Journal* 57, no. 3 (Summer 2002): 395-410.
- Allison, Lincoln. "The Olympic Movement and the End of the Cold War." *World Affairs* 157, no. 2 (Fall 1994): 92-97.

18 May 2017

Superpowers: USA vs. USSR

Reading load: 42 pages

- McEnaney, Laura. "Cold War Mobilization and Domestic Politics: The United States." In *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, edited by Odd Arne Westad and Melvyn P. Leffler, 420-41: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Priestland, David. "Cold War mobilisation and domestic politics: the Soviet Union." In *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, edited by Odd Arne Westad and Melvyn P. Leffler, 442-63: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

25 May 2017 [Ascension Day]

No class

1 June 2017

Revolution and Cold War Sports

Reading load: 27 pages

- Dalos, György. "Die ungarische Fußballkatastrophe von 1954." In *Vom Roten Stern Zur Stephanskronen*, 17-30. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1997.
- Rinehart, Robert E. "Cold War Expatriot Sport: Symbolic Resistance and International Response in Hungarian Water Polo at the Melbourne Olympics, 1956." In *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*, edited by Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews, 45-63. Oxford: Routledge, 2007.

8 June 2017

Races in the Cold War

Reading load: 50 pages

- Maraniss, David. *Rome 1960: The Summer Olympics That Stirred the World*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009. "Chapter 2: All Roads to Rome," pp. 24-51 and "Chapter 18: 'Successful Completion of the Job,'" pp. 347-366.
- Thomas, Damion. "Playing the 'Race Card': US Foreign Policy and the Integration of Sports." In *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*, edited by Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews, 207-21. Oxford: Routledge, 2007.

15 June 2017 [Corpus Christi]

No class

22 June 2017

Sports and the Cold War in TV and on the Big Screen

→ DISCUSSION OF MOVIES ←

Reading load: 22 pages

- Malitsky, Joshua. "Knowing Sports: The Logic of Contemporary Sports Documentary." *Journal of Sport History* 41, no. 2 (Summer 2014): 205-14.
- Whannel, Garry. "Television and the Transformation of Sport." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 625, no. Special Issue (September 2009): 205-18.

29 June 2017

Gender

Reading load: 49 pages

- Susan Cahn, "Women Competing/ Gender contested," excerpt from *Coming on Strong: Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth Century Women's Sports*

(1994), reprinted in Steven A. Riess (ed.). *Major Problems of Sports History* (Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1997): 360-369.

- Montez de Oca, Jeffrey. "The 'Muscle Gap': Physical Education and US Fears of a Depleted Masculinity, 1954-1963." In *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*, edited by Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews, 123-48. New York: Routledge, 2007.

6 July 2017

The Cold War on Steroids

Reading load: 28 pages

- Beamish, Rob, and Ian Ritchie. "Totalitarian Regimes and Cold War Sports: Steroid 'Übermenschen' and 'Ball-Bearing Females'." In *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*, edited by Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews, 11-26. Oxford: Routledge, 2007.
- Braun, Jutta. ">Very Nice, the Enemies Are Gone!< - Coming to Terms with GDR Sports since 1989/90." *Historical Social Research* 32, no. 1 (2007): 172-85.

13 July 2017

The Boycotts

Reading load: 43 pages

- Mertin, Evelyn. "The Soviet Union and the Olympic Games of 1980 and 1984: Explaining the Boycotts to their own People." In *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*, edited by Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews, 235-52. Oxford: Routledge, 2007.
- Sarantakes, Nicholas Evan. *Dropping the Torch - Jimmy Carter, the Olympic Boycott, and the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011. [(OPTIONAL: "Introduction," pp. 1-14,) "Chapter 5: The American Response," pp. 75-94, and "Conclusion," pp. 261-266]

20 July 2017

A Post-Cold War World

Reading load: 66 pages

- Foehr, Franklin, *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization*, "The Black Carpathians," pp. 141-166, "The New Oligarchs," 167-192. New York: Harper Collins, 2010. [quick read]
- Riordan, James. "Sport after the Cold War: Implications for Russia and Eastern Europe." In *East Plays West. Sport and the Cold War*, edited by Stephen Wagg and David L. Andrews, 272-88. New York: Routledge, 2007.