
Oil painting by E.R.W Nevinson, 'Any wintry afternoon in England' (1930)

TIME: Monday 15:15-16:45 (starts 24 January 2020)
LOCATION: HG D 1.2
INSTRUCTOR OF RECORDS: Prof. Dr. Harald Fischer-Tiné
**Mandatory Readings**

- For each session, a carefully selected text providing a survey of the respective topic is available in the Polybox. Additionally, the PowerPoint slides will be provided on the same platform within a week after the session.

  Polybox link: [https://polybox.ethz.ch/index.php/s/X0geiBlyecaRpRa](https://polybox.ethz.ch/index.php/s/X0geiBlyecaRpRa)

  Password: sports2020

**Course requirements** Presence in at least 80% of the sessions is strongly recommended; a 1,500 word summary of one of the marked readings (must be submitted to the TA, Ms Rahel Gutmann [rahel.gutmann@gmw.gess.ethz.ch](mailto:rahel.gutmann@gmw.gess.ethz.ch) until May 1\textsuperscript{st} 2020, 23:59 CET); and passing of the final exam (> 50% of the marks required for a pass).

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**Course Description**

Ever since the early modern era, organised physical leisure activities have exerted a profound influence on societies and individuals all over the globe. The course gives an overview of the historical trajectories of sports and games in various parts of the world since 1700. It seeks to understand sports as a recreational activity, method of physical (self-) optimization, political tool and form of mass entertainment. The lectures explore the interrelation of games and sports with moving forces of modernity such as capitalism, nationalism, colonialism and consumer culture.

On one level, the course aims to familiarise students with the historical development of an ubiquitous aspect of modern everyday culture, namely leisure, sports and play. Each case study is used to deepen the participants' understanding of complex historical transformations by telling the story of what has been termed "the ludic diffusion", i.e. the rapid popularisation of sports and games and the emergence of Sport as a 'global language' from a decidedly transnational and non-Eurocentric, perspective.

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**SESSION OUTLINE**

*(incl. list of mandatory readings)*

**Session 1 (24. 02. 2020)**

- **Sports in Global History — Introduction to the Course**
I. ORIGINS AND HISTORICAL TRAJECTORIES

Session 2 (02. 03. 2020)  
**A civilising Process? — Sport in early modern Europe** (ca. 1550-1780)  

Session 3 (09. 03. 2020)  
**From Ritual to Record — Sport in the Age of Capitalism and Nationalism: European Perspectives** (c.1830-1940)  

Session 4 (16. 03. 2020)  
**Sport and National Identity: North American Perspectives** (c.1830-1940)  

Session 5 (23. 03. 2020)  
**Ludic Diffusion? — Sport and Western Imperialism** (c. 1870-1970)  

II. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Session 6 (30.03.2020)  
**Body Talk — Sport and shifting Perceptions of the Human Body** (1600-2000)  

Session 7 (06. 04. 2020)  
**Gender matters — Sport as Vehicle for Masculine Self-assertion and Female Empowerment** (c.1870-2000)  
Session 8 (27. 04. 2020) Global Circulations: The transnational careers of Body-building and Yoga (1900-2000)


Session 9 (04. 05.2020) Mega Events I — Sport and (Inter-)Nationalism in the Modern Olympics (1896-1972)


Session 10 (11. 05. 2020) Mega Events II — The Tour de France as National Icon and International Showcase (1903-1998)


Session 11 (18. 05. 2020) Reading week (Session cancelled due to conference participation!)

Session 12 (25. 05. 2020) FINAL EXAM

Savage sportsmen and civilised spectators? – The ‘Anthropology days’ at the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis
BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

GENERAL OVERVIEWS


SPECIFIC WORKS DEALING WITH THEMATIC FOCI OF THE LECTURE

Session 2  Sport in early modern Europe

- MICCLELLAND, John and MERRILLES, Brian (eds), *Sport and Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays and Studies* (Toronto: Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, 2009).

Session 3  Sport in the Age of Capitalism


Session 4  Sport and National Identity in the USA


POPE, S. W. ‘Rethinking Sport, Empire, and American Exceptionalism’, *Sport History Review*, vol. 38, 2007, pp. 92–120.


**Session 5  Sport and western Imperialism**


**Session 6  Body Culture**


Session 7  Gender matters


Session 8  Global circulation of Yoga and Body Building


Session 9  The Olympics

Session 10  Tour de France


Women’s liberation on two wheels? — The first ever international women’s track race in Copenhagen (1946)