



Course Syllabus: History of Modern Sports
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 4933/5933 Section 201
Spring Semester 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Brandon Blakeslee

Office: OD 217

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Course Description

This course analyzes the history of Modern Sport from the 1800s to the present. We will trace the journey of sport from a folk game enjoyed by a few to a global phenomenon enjoyed by billions. While we look at the development of many different sports we focus primarily on soccer as one of the earlier sports and one of the most ubiquitous.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Goldblatt, David, *The Ball Is Round: A Global History of Soccer*, Riverhead books, 2008

Additional readings available via D2L

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Generative AI-Usage

This class involves students developing their research and writing skills. Students should develop those skills themselves rather than offload that responsibility onto generative AI. As such, an excessive use of AI in research or the writing of papers counts as a form of plagiarism as far as this class is concerned. Papers

flagged for excessive AI will be given a zero and the students will have one opportunity to rewrite the paper for a better grade.

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Grading – Your grade will be out of 1000 possible points spread out over three categories of assignments: Classroom Participation (300 points; 12 points each), Book Responses (200 points; 40 points each), and Research Project (500 points)
Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Classroom Participation	300
Book Response	200
Sports Topic Selection	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Outline	50
Sports History Rough Draft	150
Sports History Presentation	100
Sports History Final Draft	100
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Weekly Homework represents 300 points of your final grade

- Before every class you will have a reading assignment which you can find via D2L. Make sure you come to class ready to discuss the readings

Reading

Over the course of the semester we will be reading *The Ball is Round*. Five times during the semester you will be responsible for submitting book reports (1/2

page – 1 page) tying what Goldblatt discuss to the larger history of sports. Each response is worth 40 points.

Projects Required

There is a big project where you will do some original research on a topic of your choosing. The only requirements are that it has to pertain to Sports History and from the timeperiod of the class (1800s – Present). This project will ultimately be worth 500 points or half your grade.

- Sports Topic Selection (50 points)
- Annotated Bibliography (50 points)
- Outline (50 points)
- Rough Draft (150 points)
- Presentation (100 points)
- Final Draft (100 points)

Extra Credit

There may be opportunities for extra credit over the semester but I do not offer individual extra credit.

Late Work

While I am generally happy to give extensions for late work, you should let me know you need an extension as soon as you can.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 23.

Deadline to file for graduation: February 16

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29 at 4pm.

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester.

However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

See schedule on next page

Week or Module	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1 (1/21)	Deadlines are on D2L	No Assignment Due
Week 2 (1/26-1/28)		No Assignment Due
Week 3 (2/2-2/4)		Topic Selection Feb 4
Week 4 (2/9-2/11)		<i>Ball is Round I</i> Feb 11
Week 5 (2/16-2/18)		No Assignment Due
Week 6 (2/23-2/25)		Annotated Bibliography Feb 25
Week 7 (3/2-3/4)		<i>Ball is Round II</i> Mar 4
Week 8 (3/16-3/18)		No Assignment Due
Week 9 (3/23-3/25)		<i>Ball is Round III</i> Mar 25
Week 10 (3/30-4/01)		Outline Apr 1
Week 11 (4/6-4/8)		No Assignment Due
Week 12 (4/13-4/15)		<i>Ball is Round IV</i> Apr 15
Week 13 (4/20-4/22)		First Draft Apr 22
Week 14 (4/27-4/29)		Presentations
Week 15 (5/4-5/6)		<i>Ball is Round V</i> May 6 Final Draft May 6