

## Sport & Culture in Contemporary Italy

**UNH Course Code:** CUL351FLR/HIS301FLR

**Subject Area(s):** Cultural Studies, History, Sociology, Anthropology

**Level:** 300

**Prerequisites:** 100 or 200 level course in either Sociology, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, History, or consent of Academic Dean

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Contact Hours:** 45

**Credits:** 3

### Description:

This course analyses the role of sport in contemporary Italian society and the relationship between sport and culture in Italy. A focus on the interrelationship of politics, media, and sport will create a wider understanding of social and political issues in Italy from nineteenth century unification, through the Fascist regime leading up to the Second World War, and the Republican era that continues today. Contemporary issues such as corruption and scandal in sport, nationalism and multiculturalism in Europe, gender, the business of sport, and its relationship to the media will be critically analysed in the Italian context. You will be required to actively engage various aspects of sport in Florence throughout the course of the semester through case studies, onsite learning, and field research.

### Learning Objectives:

- to employ social science perspectives in the study of sport
- to trace the role of sport in the history of Italian nationalism
- to break down the interrelationship between sport, media, and politics in Italy
- to articulate issues of gender in sport both generally and in Italy
- to critically analyze the role of race and ethnicity in European sport
- to explain the relationship between European multiculturalism and discourses of race, ethnicity, and nationality in sport

### Instructional Format:

Class will meet once a week for 2 hours 45 minutes. Course work is comprised of in-class discussions and lectures using assigned readings as a basis. You will be called upon periodically to lead class discussion of assigned material. We will regularly utilize print, television, and internet media to evaluate the theories and case studies from assigned readings. Your active participation, which includes familiarity with assigned readings, is essential. In addition, instructor-led onsite research excursions to relevant course-related sites and institutions in the city will be scheduled based on their seasonal availability. Some onsite study will be integrated into class-time while others will be assigned as out-of-class independent learning. *If you require any special accommodations, please contact your instructor.*

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### Forms of Assessment:

The instructor will use numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade you receive for this course. For the record, these are listed and weighted below. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class. However, you must complete all grading assessment categories to receive a grade for this course. In addition, your work and behavior in this course must fully conform to the regulations of the [CEA Academic Integrity Policy](#) to which you are subject. Finally, all formal written work you carry out in this course (research papers, projects, studies, etc.)

must be submitted in electronic format. Your instructor may also require that you hand in a hard copy of such work.

**Appealing a Grade:**

Any grade dispute you encounter in this course must immediately be discussed with the instructor and definitively resolved before the last week of class. Only end-of-term assignments graded after the end of your program are subject to CEA’s formal grade appeal procedure. For more information, see [CEA Academic Policies](#).

Students wishing to appeal the grade of an end-of-term assignment must do so within the 30 day period following the official release of grades by submitting the “Grade Appeal Form” to the Academic Dean. The appeal procedure and the grade re-evaluation it requires does not guarantee a change in grade, and could result in an increase or decrease in the final grade given. Any change is subject to a ruling by the course instructor, in consultation with the Academic Dean, and must be based on the academic evidence provided to support the appeal. The instructor’s ruling on this matter is final.

Upon receiving the results of the review and decision by the instructor, the Academic Dean will inform the student of the result of the appeal. The grade received by the student as a result of the Grade Appeal is final and may not be appealed further.

Class Participation	10%
In-Class Exercises (3)	30%
Spectator Report	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

Class Participation: This grade will be calculated to reflect your participation in class discussions, your capacity to introduce ideas and thoughts dealing with the texts, your ability use language effectively, and to present your analysis in intellectual, constructive argumentation. When determining your class participation grades, traditional criteria such as material preparation, completed reading before class, and collaborative group work are all evaluated. But it is the active, meaningful and informed verbal and written contribution that you make that is most important to your overall participation grade. Indeed, willingness to share views in classroom discussions and the insightfulness of your comments and questions about assigned readings will all be taken into account when evaluating your participation. Additionally, it is important to demonstrate a positive and supportive attitude to the instructor and your classmates, and give full attention to class activities (i.e., cell-phones off, laptop for notes only, etc.). Whereas attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively towards the grade, laxity in these areas will have a negative effect. The instructor will use the following specific criteria when calculating your class participation grade:

Criteria for Assessing Class Participation	Grade
You make major and original contributions that spark discussion, offering both critical and analytical comments clearly based on readings and research and displaying a working knowledge of theoretical issues.	A+ (9.70–10.00)
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings and independent research.	A-/A (9.00–9.69)
You participate voluntarily and make useful contributions that are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	B/B+ (8.40–89.90)
You make voluntary but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	C+/B- (7.70–8.39)
You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	C (7.00–7.69)
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject, attending class having manifestly done little if any preparation.	D (6.00–6.69)
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion, a result of frequent absence and complete un-preparedness.	F (0–5.90)

**In-Class Exercises:** In certain class periods, you will have the opportunity to work with the material of the day in a short writing exercise, which will be assessed on the basis of your ability to identify and apply relevant content from the readings to the specific topics we address in class. Specific instructions will be distributed in class.

**Spectator Report:** You will be assigned a televised sporting event to spectate in a public venue. The instructor will assist you in locating a venue to watch the event if necessary. You will engage in participant-observation, submit a report to the instructor, and present a brief summary to the class. Further details and the schedule of events will be provided in class.

**Midterm & Final Examinations:** The midterm and final exams are designed to establish and communicate to you the progress you are making towards meeting the course learning objectives listed above. They are comprised of questions and exercises that test your abilities in three important areas of competency: the amount of information you master; the accuracy of the information you present; and the significance you ascribe to the facts and ideas you have integrated across your study in this course.

CEA Grading Scale				
Letter Grade	Numerical Grade Low Range	Numerical Grade High Range	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A+	9.70	10.00	97.0 - 100%	4.00
A	9.40	9.69	94.0 - 96.9%	4.00
A-	9.00	9.39	90.0 - 93.9%	3.70
B+	8.70	8.99	87.0 - 89.9%	3.30
B	8.40	8.69	84.0 - 86.9%	3.00
B-	8.00	8.39	80.0 - 83.9%	2.70
C+	7.70	7.99	77.0 - 79.9%	2.30
C	7.00	7.69	70.0 - 76.9%	2.00
D	6.00	6.99	60.0 - 69.9%	1.00
F	0.00	5.99	0 - 59.9%	0.00
W	Withdrawal			0.00
INC	Incomplete			0.00

**CEA Attendance Policy:**

Every student is expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be thoroughly prepared for the day’s class activities. In compliance with NEASC and UNH accreditation requirements, CEA instructors compile regular attendance records for every course and take these records into account when evaluating student participation and performance.

- In this course, a maximum of one (1) day of absence due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transport delay and other related impediments will be tolerated.
- Your final course grade will drop one full letter grade (e.g. A+ to B+) for missing two days of class, regardless of the reason for the absence.
- If your absences exceed two (2) days of class, you will automatically fail this course (e.g., B+ to F; miss three (3) or more days to receive an “F”).

Furthermore, to comply with immigration and financial regulations, you must maintain full-time student status and attend at least 12 hours of class every week. Consequently, the Dean and Program Director will dismiss from all CEA courses, programs, activities and housing any student who fails to maintain full-time status.

**Required Reading:**

Listed below are the required course textbook and additional readings. It is required that you have unrestricted access to each. The textbook by John Foot is available for purchase at Paperback Exchange on via delle Oche 4R. The cost is approximately 16 euro.

Access to additional sources required for certain class sessions will be provided in electronic format through the CEA network. In addition, the Academic Affairs Office compiles a bank of detailed information about the many libraries, documentation centers, research institutes and archival materials located in the host city and accessible to CEA students. You will be expected to use these resources throughout your studies. Direct access to additional resources and databanks are available to you through the online library of the University of New Haven.

- Benoit, Macon. "The politicization of Football: The European Game and the Approach to the Second World War." *Soccer and Society* 9:2 (2008):532-550.
- Bernstein, Alina and Neil Blain. "Sport and the Media: The Emergence of a Major Research Field." *Culture, Sport, Society* 5:3 (2002):1-30.
- Brown, Adam and Andy Walsh. "Football Supporters' Relations with Their Clubs: A European Perspective." *Soccer and Society* 1:3 (2000):88-101.
- Cere, Rinella. "'Witches of Our Age': Women *Ultras*, Italian Football, and the Media." *Sport in Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics* 5:3 (2002):166-188.
- De Block, Andreas and Siegfried Dewitte. "Darwinism and the Cultural Evolution of Sports." *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 52:1 (2009):1-16.
- Dogliani, Patrizia. "Sport and Fascism." *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 5:3 (2000):326-341
- Eco, Umberto. "Sports Chatter." In *Travels in Hyperreality: Essays*. San Diego:Harcourt Brace, 1986.
- "The World Cup and Its Poms." In *Travels in Hyperreality: Essays*. San Diego:Harcourt Brace, 1986.
- Foot, John. *Calcio: A History of Italian Football*. London: Harper Perennial, 2007.**
- Guschwan, Matthew. "Riot in the Curve: Soccer Fans in Twenty-First Century Italy." *Soccer and Society* 8:2/3 (2007):250-266.
- Jones, Tobias. *The Dark Heart of Italy*. New York: North Point Press, 2003.
- Melchiorri, G, V. Manzi, E. Padua, F. Sardella, and M. Bonifazi. "Shuttle Swim Test for Water Polo Players: Validity and Reliability." *Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness* 49:3 (2009):327-330.
- Robazza, Claudio, Maurizio Beretollo, & Laura Bortoli. "Frequency and Direction of Competitive Anger in Contact Sports." *Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness* 46:3 (2006):501-509.
- Shaw, Sally & Trevor Slack. "'It's been like that for Donkey's Years': The Construction of Gender Relations and the Cultures of Sports Organizations." *Culture, Sport, Society* 5:1 (2002):86-106.
- Testa, Alberto. "Contested Meanings: The Italian Media and the UltraS." *Review of European Studies* 2:1(2010):15-24.

### **Recommended Readings:**

Certain of the following sources may be assigned throughout the semester. Selected readings are available in the resource center, or through UNH Library databases. See instructor for more information on how to access particular readings.

- Blain, Neil. *Sport, Media, Culture: Global and Local Dimensions*. London: Routledge, 2003.
- Blain, Neil, Raymond Boyle, and Hugh O'Donnell. *Sport and National Identity in the European Media*. London: Leicester University Press, 1993.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. "Program for a Sociology of Sport." *Sociology of Sport Journal* 5 (1988):153-161.
- Boyle, Raymond & Richard Haynes. *Football in the New Media Age*, Routledge, London, 2004.
- Boyle, Raymond & Richard Haynes. *Power Play. Sport, the Media & Popular Culture*. Longman-Pearson, 2000.
- Budd, Adrian. "Capitalism, Sport and Resistance: Reflections." *Culture, Sport, Society* 4:1(2001):1-18.
- Cavanaugh, Shiela L. & Heather Sykes. "Transsexual Bodies at the Olympics: The International Olympic Committee's Policy on Transsexual Athletes at the 2004 Athens Summer Games." *Body and Society* 12:3 (2006):75-102.

- Chisari, Fabio. "The Cursed Cup": Italian Responses to the 1985 Heysel Disaster." *Soccer and Society* 5:2 (2004):201-218.
- Daddario, Gina. *Women's Sport and Spectacle: Gendered Television Coverage and the Olympic Games*. Praeger, 1998
- Darby, Paul. "Football, Colonial Doctrine and Indigenous Resistance: Mapping the Political Persona of FIFA's African Constituency." *Culture, Sport and Society* 3:1 (2000):61-87.
- De Bosscher, Veerle, Paul de Knop, Maarten van Bottenburg, Simon Shibli, & Jerry Bingham. "Explaining International Sporting Success: An International Comparison of Elite Sport Systems and Policies in Six Countries." *Sport Management Review* 12 (2009):113-136.
- Foer, Franklin. *How Soccer Explains The World. An unlikely theory of globalization*. Harper Collins, 2004.
- Houlihan, Barrie. *Sport and society. A student introduction*. London:Sage, 2008.
- Jarvie, Grant. *Sport, culture and society : an introduction*. London:Routledge, 2006.
- Kavetsos, Georgios & Stefan Szymanski. "National Well-Being and International Sports Events." *Journal of Economic Psychology* 31 (2010):158-171.
- Lapchick, Richard, E. *Sport in Society*. London:Sage, 1996.
- Levermore, Roger & Adrian Budd. *Sport and International Relations*. Routledge: London, 2004.
- Martin, Christopher R. & Jimmie L. Reeves. "The Whole World Isn't Watching (But We Thought They Were): The Super Bowl and United States Solipsism." *Sport In Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics* 4:3 (2001):213-236.
- Missiroli, Antonio. "European Football Cultures and Their Integration: The 'Short' Twentieth Century." *Culture, Sport, Society* 5:1 (2002):1-20.
- Moragas Spa, Miquel, Nancy K. Rivenburgh & James F. Larson. *Television in the Olympics*. John Libbey. London, 1996.
- Riordan, James & Krüger, Arnd. *European Cultures in Sport: Examining the Nations and Regions*. Intellect Books, 2003.
- Rowe, David. *Sport, Culture and the Media*. Philadelphia:Open University Press, 1999.
- Schultz, Brad. *Sports Media. Reporting, Producing and Planning*. Focal Press, 2005.
- Sykes, Heather. "Transsexual and Transgender Policies in Sport." *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal* 15:1 (2006):3-13.

### Online Reference & Research Tools:

www.sirc.ca. (SIRC = Sports Information Resource Centre). The world's leading sports information resource centre. <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=4134> Institute of Sports Research at the University of Pretoria, South Africa

<http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/sirc/> The Sports Industry Research Centre at the University of Sheffield.

Various centers and institutes focus on the study of sport in society. The Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University and the Centre for the Sociology of Sport at the University of Leicester are representative of these centers and institutes. Access: <http://www.sportsinsociety.org> and <http://www.le.ac.uk/so/css>.

### Olympic Games:

The "modern" Olympic Games are covered by the official Web site of the Olympic Movement. A database provides comprehensive results coverage of the Olympic Summer Games from 1896 to 2008 and the Olympic Winter Games from 1924 to 2006. Biographical information is provided for the Olympic athletes. The "Historical Archives" are extensive, providing access to numerous full-text documents. More than 20,000 monographs and 250 periodicals are available in the International Olympic Committee Library. Information is also available on the "ancient" Olympic Games conducted from 776 B.C. to 393 A.D. Access: <http://www.olympic.org>.

# Sport and Culture in Contemporary Italy

## Course Content

Session	Topic	Activity	Student Assignments
1	Introducing Sport, Introducing Culture, Introducing Italy	Lecture and Discussion	In Class Introductory Worksheet
2	Contemporary Italy in Historical Context Social Science Perspectives on Sport	Defining "Sport" Defining "Italy"	Guschwan, 250-254 Foot, 1-18
3	Evolutionary and Adaptive Theory of Sport The Emergence of Fascism	Contrasting Guschwan with DeBlock and DeWitte	DeBlock and Dewitt
4	Fascist Sport in Italy and the World	Lecture and Discussion	Dogliani Foot, 33-39, 389-390 and 473-478
5	From Fascism to the Republic	In-Class Exercise Sport During Wartime: Then and Now	Benoit Foot, 413-425 Brown and Walsh, 90-93
6	Sport in Italy to the Present Day	Lecture and Discussion Review for the Midterm	Foot, 478-484 Jones 71-88 Eco
7	Immigration and Identity Midterm Exam	Lecture and Discussion Midterm Exam	Foot 426-464
8	Sport and Media: Print and Broadcast	Contemporary event coverage in multiple media <b>Midterm exam</b>	Foot, 303-332
9	Gender and Sport in Italy and Beyond	Gender and Sport in Reflexive Perspective	Bernstein and Blein, 5-13 Shaw and Slack 86-89, 103-104 Cere
10	Politics and Neo-Fascism in Calcio	The Curve: banners and symbols	Jones 88-105 Foot 389-405, 410-413, 419-425
11	Beyond Calcio: Professionals and Amateurs	Guest Lecture and Screening of Film "We Love Lebowski" by Ciboideale	Guschwan Testa
12	Sport Science and the (Social) Science of Sport...What About Calcio?	"Taking the Fun Out of Sport"	Robazza et al Melchiorri et al Bertollo et al
13	Bringing It All Together: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Sport and Culture	Review for the Final	Read anything you missed! Spectator Reports Due
14	<b>Final Exam</b>		

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