COURSE DETAIL

SPORTS IN U:S. CULTURAL HISTORY
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Anthropology American Studies
UCEAP Course Number 138
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title SPORTS IN U:S. CULTURAL HISTORY
UCEAP Transcript Title SPORTS US CULT HIST
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

American sports culture frequently serves as an example of an alleged American exceptionalism; a fact that a relative indifference towards soccer, the exceptional “big four” pro sports leagues, and collegiate sports culture (NCAA) seemingly underline. This course sets out to make sense of and (maybe) trouble the narrative of American exceptionalism by examining the history of modern sports in the United States. We will consider the aesthetic, social, cultural, and political factors that contributed to the development and practice of sports from roughly the middle of the 19th century into our current age. The class will approach sports history with a focus on the relationship between sports and society, i.e. the role that sports has played in shaping ideology and informing popular thought, for example in the context of nationhood and globalization, but also with regard to modern discourses of health and fitness. The ultimate goal of this course is to encourage critically looking at, thinking, and writing about sports as everyday practice and as a professional field, as connected to discourses of health and (the pursuit of) happiness, as media event and content, and as a prominent repository of liberal narratives of meritocracy.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
32104

Host Institution Course Title
SPORTS IN US CULTURAL HISTORY

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/817915?query=Sports+in+U.S.+Cultural+History&...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
John-F-Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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