



## Course Unit: International Comparison of Sport Systems (S A 03)

Semester	4
Hours per week	2
Contact hours (total)	32 h
Individual study	28 h

Language of Tuition/Assessment	English
Group size (max)	20
ECTS credits	3
Lecturer	Prof Dr. Lucie Thibault, Brock University, CANADA

**Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to examine political, economic, social, and cultural forces leading to the globalization of sport. Topics may include migration of athletes, sporting goods manufacturing in developing and least developed countries, global sport-media complex, international sport organizations and the structures and governance of international sport, and the resurgence of nationalism.

Students will also be exposed to sport systems from different countries and cultural contexts, identify their features and understand them within their socioeconomic context. The relationships to intercultural components will enable students to communicate in encounters with representatives of other sport systems.

**Cross-functional skills imparted:** Understanding scholarly texts, participating in discussions on research-related topics, structuring problems, selecting and applying research methods in order to solve specific problems.

**Content:** This course will give students the opportunity to analyze the structures and governance of international sport and various national sport systems. This approach will enable them to identify political, economic, social, and cultural features of sport in a global context.

This approach and the comparative analysis of the sport systems will reveal their system-specific strengths and weaknesses – and some of the ways in which they impact sport. Understanding the global context has become imperative in the preparation of sport leaders. International issues in our field such as the commercialization of the Olympic Games and other international games, the increasing political involvement in sport, the global media-sport complex, the migration of athletes, and the global business of sport will be covered during the course.

**Method:** Interactive Lecture with various active learning exercises.

**Prerequisites** **Formal:** Full-time student of Sports Management (MA Program) in the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences (WISO) **OR** exchange student with approved learning agreement.

**Academic:** This course does not build up on any other courses offered on campus. As the language of instruction and assessment will be English, students need to be fluent in English - both in terms of oral and written communication.

**Assessment:** **Presentations (including written papers)** to be presented in class. Additional information will be provided in class. The deadline for the written papers will be May 19, 2017. The course will be offered during the first teaching term (March 23 -May 21).

**Literature:** Will rely on scholarly articles available online. The instructor will provide more details and more readings in class. Examples of some articles and texts:

- Bale, J., & Maguire, J. (2013). *The global sports arena: Athletic talent migration in an interdependent world*. Routledge.
- Campbell, R. (2011). Staging globalization for national projects: Global sport markets and elite athletic



transnational labour in Qatar. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 46(1), 45-60.

- De Bosscher, V., De Knop, P., van Bottenburg, M., Shibli, S., Bingham, J. (2009). Explaining international sporting success: An international comparison of elite sport systems and policies in six countries. *Sport Management Review*, 12(3), 113-136. doi:10.1016/j.smr.2009.01.001
- De Bosscher, V., De Knop, P., van Bottenburg, M., Shibli, S. (2006). A conceptual framework for analysing sports policy factors leading to international sporting success. *European Sport Management Quarterly*, 6(2), 185-215. doi:10.1080/16184740600955087
- De Bosscher, V., Shibli, S., Westerbeek, H., van Bottenburg, M. (2015). *Successful elite sport policies: An international comparison of the Sports Policy factors Leading to International Sporting Success (SPLISS 2.0) in 15 nations*. Maidenhead, UK: Meyer & Meyer Sport.
- European Commission – Sport. (2013). EU Work Plan for Sport 2011-2014 Expert Group “Good Governance” Deliverable 2. Principles of good governance in sport (pp. 1-16). Retrieved from [http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/policy\\_documents/xg-gg-201307-dlvrbl2-sept2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/policy_documents/xg-gg-201307-dlvrbl2-sept2013.pdf)
- Forster, J. (2006) The global sports organisations and their governance. *Corporate Governance*, 6(1), 72–83.
- Green, M. (2007). Policy transfer, lesson drawing and perspectives on elite sport development systems. *International Journal of Sport Management and Marketing*, 2 (4), 426-441.
- Healey, D. (2012). Governance in sport: Outside the box? *The Economic and Labour Relations Review*, 23(3), 39-60.
- Katwala, S. (2000) *Democratising global sport*. London: The Foreign Policy Centre.
- KPMG International. (2014). *Benchmarking analysis on sport organizations*. Retrieved from <http://www.sport.fi/system/resources/W1siZiIsIjIwMTQvMDQvMDQvMTRfNDNfMDRfMTk1X0tQTUdfQmVuY2htYXJraW5nX0FuYWx5c2lzX29uX1Nwb3J0X09yZ2FuaXphdGlvbnMucGRmIl1d/KPMG%20Benchmarking%20Analysis%20on%20Sport%20Organizations.pdf>
- Maguire, J. (2011). Power and global sport: Zones of prestige, emulation and resistance. *Sport in Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics*, 14(7-8), 1010-1026.
- Mason, D., Thibault, L., & Misener, L. (2006). An agency theory perspective on corruption in sport: The case of the International Olympic Committee. *Journal of Sport Management*, 20(1), 52-73.
- Moore, G., (2016, July 20). A sporting chance. *Economia*, July-August, 50-55. Retrieved from <http://economia.icaew.com/opinion/july-2016/a-sporting-chance>
- Schulenkorf, N., & Frawley, S. (Eds.) (2016). *Critical issues in global sport management*. Routledge.
- Thibault, L. (2009). Globalization of sport: *An Inconvenient Truth*. *Journal of Sport Management*, 23(1), 1-20.
- Thibault, L., Kihl, L.A., & Babiak, K. (2010). Democratisation and governance in international sport: Addressing issues with athlete involvement in organisational policy. *International Journal of Sport Policy*, 2(3), 275-302.

**Credits:** This course unit is part of **Module S A 03 (12 ECTS credits)**. The successful completion of this module requires the successful participation in four electives from the catalogue. ECTS credits will be awarded once the four course units (3 credits each) have been completed. This course unit contributes 25% to the overall grade for Module S A 03.