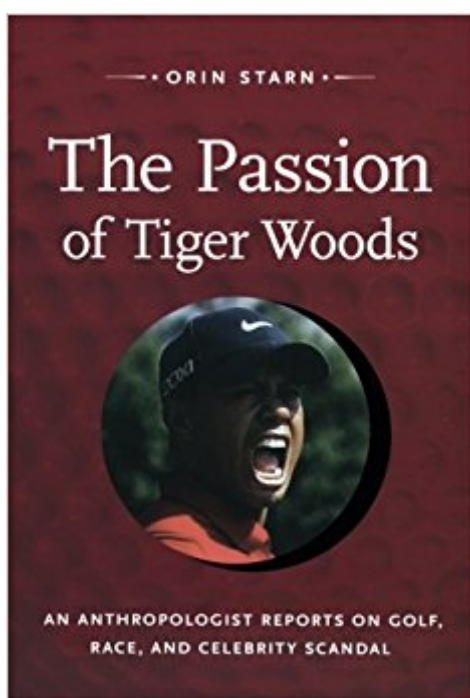


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# The Passion Of Tiger Woods: An Anthropologist Reports On Golf, Race, And Celebrity Scandal (a John Hope Franklin Center Book)



## Synopsis

Perhaps the best golfer ever, Tiger Woods rocketed to the top of a once whites-only sport. Endorsements made him a global brand and the world's richest athlete. The child of a multiracial marriage, Woods and his blond, blue-eyed wife, Elin Nordegren, seemed to represent a new postracial America. Then, in late 2009, Woods became embroiled in a sex scandal that made headlines worldwide. In this concise yet far-reaching analysis, Orin Starn brings an anthropologist's perspective to bear on Tigergate. He explores our modern media obsession with celebrity scandals and their tawdry ritualized drama, yet he offers much more than the usual banal moralizing about the rich and famous. Starn explains how Tiger's travails and the culture of golf reflect broader American anxieties about race and sex, scapegoating and betrayal, and the role of the sports hero. *The Passion of Tiger Woods* is required reading for all those interested in the high-stakes world of professional golf, the politics of sports and celebrity, and the myths and realities surrounding the flawed yet riveting figure who remains among the most famous athletes of our time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An in-depth study of the sport's exclusionary reputation, the celebrity industry, racial stereotypes, marketing and media avarice, Starn's treatment of the Woods scandal delivers layers of perspective to what, on the surface, was just another cheap tabloid feeding frenzy." - John Jeanson, *Newsday* "[A] very engrossing read. . . . [T]he value of *The Passion of*

Tiger Woods is simply that it is thought provoking. Starn provides readers with plenty of issues to consider about sports in culture, along with his own unique perspective - Steven Campbell, American Athlete Magazine

– “[A] fascinating and thought-provoking look at how society gets its information and, often immediately, hands down its judgments. – Ron Kaplan, ForeWord Reviews

– “Orin Starn’s excellent examination of Tiger Woods offers deep insight, original thinking, and valuable new perspectives. This book tells us a lot about Tiger, but even more about ourselves.

– Jaime Diaz, senior writer, Golf Digest

– “The next time someone asks me about anthropology’s value to contemporary cultural debates, I’ll just tell them to read Orin Starn’s The Passion of Tiger Woods, a funny, engaging, readable, and unapologetically anthropological take on celebrity scandal, popular culture, and American sports. From playful musings on a potentially recessive golf gene to critiques of (wildly popular!) speculative genetic theories about black athleticism, Starn takes us on an entertaining ride through the history of golf, the rise of its current superstar, and the media maelstrom of racial and sexual imagery that followed from a relatively minor car crash in Florida one fateful Thanksgiving night. I’m one of those people who was tired of hearing about Tigergate almost as soon as the story first broke, but Starn does a convincing job of showing me why I should have been listening and watching even more closely.

– John L. Jackson, Jr., author of Racial Paranoia: The Unintended Consequences of Political Correctness

– “Orin Starn’s elegant little essay, The Passion of Tiger Woods, arrives from the outside and looks at the public spectacle of Woods’ stunning crack-up.

– (Bradley Klein Golfweek)

– “With Tiger as its springboard, The Passion of Tiger Woods dives into some big themes the subtitle barely supplies the half of it and comes up with a short, compelling and eminently engaging postulation that goes well beyond its own titular transgressor.

– (Jeff Silverman Golf.com)

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– (John Jeanson Newsday)

– “An excellent example of the power of anthropology to illuminate popular culture at the national level for a nonanthropological audience. . . . This report

would be an excellent text for introductory anthropology classes, for those rare classes in the anthropology of sport, and as a gift to nonanthropologist friends who are curious about what anthropology might have to say about culture in the United States. (Robert H. Lavenda American Ethnologist)"Starn's clarity about the cultural significance of sport and specifically of golf is refreshing. . . . The Passion of Tiger Woods offers an important entry point to thinking differently about sport." (Katherine M. Jamieson Sociology of Sport Journal 2014-03-01)"The Passion of Tiger Woods is a wonderful example of the types of anthropological studies that are necessary and possible. Despite the obvious pitfalls of the anonymity of his subjects, the approach lends itself to useful, fresh, honest tracking of true public perception that ensues in the social media world, which cannot be ignored." (Thabiti Lewis American Studies)"Starn, an anthropologist, promises us not only golf but also the steamier topics of betrayal, raunchy sex and race conflict. And once we're past an early trot through American history and golf, that's exactly what we get. Starn is a perceptive guide as he ranges from the Frankfurt School to social media with an enviable lightness of touch." (Sharon Wheeler Times Higher Education)

Orin Starn is Professor and Chair of Cultural Anthropology at Duke University. He is the author of Nightwatch: The Politics of Protest in the Andes and a co-editor of The Peru Reader: History, Culture, Politics, both also published by Duke University Press. His most recent book is the award-winning Ishi's Brain: In Search of America's Last "Wild" Indian. An avid golfer with a five handicap, Starn has written about golf for the Los Angeles Times and other newspapers and provided commentary on ESPN and NPR. He blogs about golf at [golfpolitics.blogspot.com](http://golfpolitics.blogspot.com) and regularly teaches a course about sports and society.

Very interesting reading. Had to get it for a college course but I enjoyed the reading. The perspective the author takes makes for a fresh look at golf/sports, celebrities, race, history, and our societies indulgence of it all.

I bought this book by mistake but read it anyway. I am glad I did, a very interesting take on Tiger's troubles and why.

cheap price! what else needs to be said about textbooks.

an awesome book!

My son and husband both read this. It tells lots about Tiger's background and about the game of goff. Have we really evolved? Not as much as we think! GREAT BOOK!

Forced to buy for college class--under those circumstances book sucked.

This insightful, engaging book on the Tiger Woods sex scandal reveals much about the persistence of cultural taboos on sex, race, and the body in celebrity culture as well as the hypocrisy of the American sports industry. Some touted Woods as the sports hero for a postracial America, but in the course of the sex scandal he was portrayed as an embodiment of black male sexual and athletic prowess who was unable to sustain an interracial marriage. Witty and incisive, this book will help students to grasp how much anthropological readings of popular culture can teach us about ourselves.

I've heard about this book from some sporties and anthros (not much overlap). I cant WAIT to get my hands on it and use to teach in my intro class. YEAHH!

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