HIST 383 - Fall 2018
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Soccer and Society in Modern Latin America

Course description

Soccer -known as *fútbol* in Spanish or *futebol* in Portuguese- is, without doubt, the single most popular sport in the world. In most countries of Latin America it has become the national pastime, the only exceptions being the Caribbean countries of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela, where baseball occupies that place. This course will offer students the opportunity to explore and understand the complexities of Latin American societies using soccer as a cultural and sociological window. At a more general level, it will also allow them to think critically about the social, cultural, and political implications of sports and entertainment in contemporary societies. We will discuss, among other issues, the reasons why soccer captured the imagination of Latin Americans; the relationship between the dissemination of soccer and patterns of cultural, political, and economic change; the connections between soccer and the shaping of national identities in the region; the manipulation of soccer by military regimes in the 1970s; the racial, class, and gender dynamics behind soccer as a practice and a spectacle; the recent appearance of violent soccer fans and their connections with contemporary economic and social trends such as the spread of neo-liberalism and the forces of globalization; and the use of soccer as a marker of identity by Latin American immigrants in the United States.

Course policies

1. Students are expected to attend lectures consistently. A passing grade will be hard to achieve without regular attendance. Students must also consistently read the assigned materials and actively participate in class discussions.
2. A common form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students must become familiar with the University of Oregon rules about this issue. More information will be offered at the appropriate time.
3. An atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be enforced by the instructor. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment--i.e. no talking, eating, or texting during lecture.
4. Cell phones and other electronic devices cannot be used during class. They must be turned off. The instructor will interrupt class if one or more students are caught using their devices.
5. Laptops and tablets are allowed ONLY for note-taking, and students who use them in class must seat in the front row. If a student uses his/her laptop for other purposes during class time (web browsing, chatting, e-mail checking), he/she will be banned from bringing a laptop computer to the classroom.

6. “Incomplete” grades will be granted only in cases of extreme need and only to those students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and have at least a C average in their evaluations. Students that need an "incomplete" grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.

Course requirements

Two quizzes: 5% each, 10% total
Two film reviews: 10% each, 20% total (we will watch three films; students will choose two of them to review)
Midterm exam: 20%
Group project: 20%. Groups of 4-5 students will work throughout the term on a project related to the history of soccer rivalries in Latin America. The outcome of each project will be a class presentation (10%) and an 8-10 pages research paper (10%). More information will be offered in class.
Final exam: 30%

Course Readings: All readings will be available electronically through Canvas

What you can expect to learn in this course

- A basic knowledge of the history of Latin America between 1870 and 2000, including major social processes and events such as immigration, urbanization, populism, military dictatorships, economic trends, gender and racial dynamics, and nationalist ideas and practices.
- An overview of the history of soccer in the region and its relationship with the above-mentioned processes
- How to think about history in terms of political, economic, social, and cultural forces and how they interact
- How to connect sports (and other forms of spectacle and entertainment) with the larger social forces that shape them.
- An understanding of the impact of globalization in Latin American societies

Schedule of topics and readings

Week 1

9/24 Introduction to the class: the relevance of soccer and other sports to understand Latin American modern history

9/26 Sports, cultural change, and modernization: The origins of soccer in Latin America

Readings:
Tony Mason, “Origins” and “English Lessons,” from *Passion of the People? Football in South America* (Verso, 1995).
Bernardo Borges Buarque de Holanda, “The fan as actor: the popularization of soccer and Brazil’s sports audience,” *Soccer and Society*, 15, 1, 2014.

Week 2

10/01 Soccer, Working Class, and Populism in Brazil and Argentina

10/03 Soccer, Working Class, and Populism in Brazil and Argentina, cont. / Quiz No. 1

Readings:
Raanan Rein, "'El primer deportista': The Political Use and Abuse of Sport in Peronist Argentina," *International Journal of the History of Sport*, Vol. 15, No. 2, August 1998, pp. 54-76.
Simoni Lahud Guedes, "On criollos and capoeiras: notes on soccer and national identity in Argentina and in Brazil," *Soccer and Society*, 15, 1, 2014.
Tiago Maranhao, "*Apollonians and Dionysians:* The Role of Football in Gilberto Freyre's Vision of Brazilian People," *Soccer and Society*, 8, 4, 2007.

Week 3

10/08 Soccer, Race, and National Identity in Brazil

10/10 Soccer, Race, and National Identity in Brazil, cont. / Soccer and State Terror in the Southern Cone

Readings:
Ana Paula da Silva, "Pelé, Racial Discourse and the 1958 World Cup," *Soccer and Society*, 15, 1, 2014.
Roberto da Matta, "Sport in Society. An Essay on Brazilian Football," *Vibrant*, Vol. 6, No. 2, July-December, 2009.

Week 4

10/15 Soccer and State Terror: Brazil 1970 and Argentina 1978

10/17 Film No. 1, "The year my parents went on vacation" (Brazil, 2006)

Readings:
Joseph L. Arbena, "Generals and Goles: assessing the connection between the military and soccer in Argentina," *International Journal of the History of Sport 7* (1990), 120-130.
Eduardo Archetti, "Argentina 1978: Military Nationalism, Football Essentialism, and Moral Ambivalence," in Alan Tomlinson and Christopher Young, eds.
National Identity and Global Sports Events. Culture, Politics, and Spectacle in the Olympics and the Football World Cup (Albany: SUNY Press, 2006), 133-147.

Week 5

10/22 Soccer, passion, and tragedy: From Maracanazo to the Soccer War / Film review No. 1 due

10/24 Midterm exam

Readings:

Aldo Panfichi and Víctor Vich, "Political and Social Fantasies in Peruvian Football: The Tragedy of Alianza Lima in 1987," *Soccer and Society*, Volume 5, Number 2, summer 2004, pp. 285-297.
Ryszard Kapuscinski, "The Soccer War," in *The Soccer War* (Vintage, 1992), pp. 157-184.

Week 6

10/29 Soccer players as cultural icons: Garrincha, Pele, Maradona, Messi

10/31 Film 2: "Maradona by Kusturica"

Readings:

José Sergio Leite Lopes, "'The People's Joy Vanishes': Considerations on the Death of a Soccer Player," *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, 4, 2, 2000. Tony Mason, "The Reign of Pelé," in *Passion of the People? Football in South America* (Verso: 1995), pp. 77-95.
Eduardo Archetti, "'And Give Joy to my Heart': Ideology and Emotions in the Argentine Cult of Maradona," in Gary Armstrong and Richard Giulianotti, eds. *Entering the Field. New Perspectives on World Football* (Oxford, Berg, 1997).

Week 7

11/05 Soccer Fans: Violence, Clientelism, and Masculinity/ Film review No. 2 due

11/07 Group Presentations: 1, 2, and 3 / Quiz No. 2

Readings:

Aldo Panfichi and Jorge Thieroldt, "Identity and Rivalry: the Football Clubs and Barras Bravas in Peru," in Miller ed. *Football in the Americas.*
Roger Magazine, "'You can Buy a Player's Legs, But not his Heart.' A Critique of Clientelism and Modernity among Soccer Fans in Mexico City," *Journal of Latin*

American Anthropology, 9, 1, 2004.
Pablo Alabarces, "'Aguante' and repression: football, politics and violence in Argentina," in Eric Dunning, et al eds. *Fighting fans. Football hooliganism as a world phenomenon* (Dublin: University College Dublin Press, 2002), 23-36.

Week 8

11/12 Film No. 3, "Rudo and Cursi"

11/14 "Rudo and Cursi," cont / Group presentation (4)

Week 9

11/19 Soccer and the Latino Diaspora in the US / Film Review No. 3 due

11/21 Soccer and Globalization

Readings:

Juan Javier Pescador, "¡Vamos Taximaroa! Mexican/Chicano Soccer Associations and Transnational/Translocal Communities, 1967-2002," *Latino Studies,* Volume 2, Number 3, December 2004.

Juan Javier Pescador, "Los Heroes del Domingo: Soccer, Borders, and Social Spaces in Great Lakes Mexican Communities, 1940-1970," in *Mexican Americans and Sports: a Reader on Athletics and Barrio Life*, edited by Jorge Iber and Samuel O. Regalado (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2007).

Andrei S. Markovits and Lars Rensmann, "Introduction: Going Global. Sports, Politics, and identities," from Gaming the World: How Sports Are Reshaping Global Politics and Culture (Princeton University Press, 2013), pp. 1-42.

Week 10

11/26 Group Presentations (5, 6 and 7)

11/28 Latin American Soccer in the World Scene / Group research papers due / Review for Final Exam

Final exam: Monday, December 3, 10:15-12:15.