



SYLLABUS

HIST 399: SOCCER AND NATIONALISM IN SPAIN AND SPANISH AMERICA

Instructor: Carlos Aguirre

Language of Instruction: English

UO Credits: 4

Contact Hours*: 40

OVIEDO, SPAIN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Soccer is a global pastime. From its uncertain origins in mid-nineteenth century England to its present-day status as a world-wide business and mass phenomenon, soccer has gone through dramatic transformations that have affected the sport itself but also the societies in which it is practiced. At the same time, soccer is a powerful marker of national and other types of collective identities. Flags, hymns, rivalries, myths, heroes, loyalties, and even violence, have become over time central elements of the practice of soccer, sometimes as or more important than playing style or tactics on the field.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This class will explore the complex and intertwined history of soccer in Spain and Spanish America from the late nineteenth century to present times, using nationalism (and related processes such as globalization) as key elements to understand its evolution. Students will acquire a solid understanding of the place of soccer in society and their connection to the formation of national identities, while at the same time will deepen their knowledge of the history of both Spain and Spanish America.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

We will meet for two hours three times per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) for lectures and discussion. In addition, we will watch a film or documentary every Wednesday afternoon, followed by discussion.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

Two quizzes: 10 points each; 20 total points.

Midterm exam: 30 points

Final exam: 40 points

Attendance and participation: 10 points.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

1. The Origins of Soccer in Spain and Spanish America
2. Soccer and the Working Classes (1890-1930)
3. Soccer, Populism, and Nationalism in Brazil and Argentina

Week 2

4. Soccer and International Competitions in South America and Europe
5. “Dionysians” and “Apollonians”: Competing “National” Soccer Styles in Europe and South America
6. Soccer, Race, and National Identity in Brazil

WEEKEND: WILL ATTEND A SOCCER GAME IN OVIEDO OR GIJÓN (DEPENDING ON SCHEDULE)

Week 3

7. Soccer and the Spanish Civil War
8. Soccer, Spanish nationalism, and the Franco regime.
9. Barcelona-Real Madrid: the History of the “clásico”

Week 4

10. Soccer and national rivalries in Latin America
11. Soccer and peripheral nationalisms in Spain: the Basque Country and Catalunya
12. “La roja”: the history of the Spanish national team

EXCURSION TO MADRID

Week 5

13. Soccer and globalization: an overview
14. Effects of globalization on “national” soccer cultures
15. The World Cup and the forging of soccer nationalism

COURSE READINGS

Tony Mason, “Origins” and “English Lessons,” from *Passion of the People? Football in South America* (Verso, 1995).

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.

Tiago Maranhao, "Apollonians and Dionysians: The Role of Football in Gilberto Freyre's Vision of Brazilian People," *Soccer and Society*, 8, 4, 2007.

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.

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.

J. Sergio Leite Lopes, "Transformations in National Identity through Football in Brazil: Lessons from Two Historical Defeats," in Rory M. Miller and Liz Crolley (editors), *Football in the Americas: Fútbol, Futebol, Soccer* (London: Institute for the Study of the Americas, 2007, 75-93.

Richard Giulianotti, "Built by the Two Varelas: the Rise and Fall of Football Culture and National Identity in Uruguay," *Culture, Sport, Society*, Volume 2, 1999, Issue 3.

Simone Guedes, "On criollos and capoeiras: notes on soccer and national identity in Argentina and in Brazil," *Soccer & Society*, 2014, Vol. 15, No. 1, 147-161.

Carrie Benjamin, "Visca el Barça! Ideology, Nationalism, and the FIFA World Cup," *Kroeber Anthropological Society*, 101 (1): 66-78.

Ramón Llopis Goig, "Identity, nation-state and football in Spain. The evolution of nationalist feelings in Spanish football," *Soccer & Society*, Vol. 9, No. 1, January 2008, 56-63.

Lowe, Sid. *Fear and Loathing in La Liga: Barcelona Vs Real Madrid*. New York, NY: Nation Books, 2014.

Quiroga, Alejandro. *Football and National Identities in Spain: The Strange Death of Don Quixote*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Standard citation needs to include: APA