

Sociology 410 006 82066 The History and Culture of Soccer
Summer 2010 June 22-July 15 T and Th W- 3:30-5:50 NH 209
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Office hours by appointment.

“I am not myself very fond of watching football,” said Genji.” It is a rough game. But I feel that today we all need something to wake us up...”

Lady Murasaki, *The Tale of Genji*, ca. 1000 C.E.

For as much as there is a great noise in the city caused by hustling over large balls, from which many evils may arise, which God forbid; We command and forbid on behalf of the king, on pain of imprisonment, such game to be used in the city in future.

King Edward the Second, King of England, 1314.

For, after many years in which the world has afforded me many experiences, what I must surely know in the long run about morality and the obligations of men, I owe to sport.

Albert Camus, Goalie for the University of Algiers Football team and winner of the Nobel Prize for literature.

You will be closer to Heaven through football than by the Gita.

Swami Yogananda

From its roots in religious rituals among the Aztecs and the Chinese and up to its present global popularity, Soccer is the game most played, written about, watched, and dreamed about, in the world. This class will examine the nature and history of the game and will look at its intersections with issues of class, gender, nationalism, and globalization.

The literature about the subject, both popular and scholarly, is extensive and in 10 weeks we can only address several manifestations. We will become acquainted with research done by sociologists and their explorations of the game’s appeal in different cultures, its various representations and character, how the game is organized, and what social and commercial forces shape it and are shaped by it.

Our goals are to learn about the game’s history and culture and study several of its aspects. We will bring to the task the artistry of a George Best dribble, the precision of a Maradona free kick, and treat it with the same loving care that Zinedine Zidane employs when distributing the ball. We will approach our subject with a critical lens but also with the sense of fun and wonder that the game provides so generously to all.

TEXTS:

* Soccer in Sun and Shadow- Eduardo Galeano, Norton Books, 1998, 2003.

* The Global Game- Writers on Soccer, edited by John Turnbull, Thom Satterlee, and Alon Raab, University of Nebraska Press, 2008.

* Selected articles from

The Global Game theglobalgame.com

Soccer and Society <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713636451~db=all>

* Films- both documentary and narrative from different countries, including the series- The History of Soccer- The Beautiful Game, 2001. (On reserve.)

Recommended-

- * The Ball is Round- David Golblatt, Riverhead Books, 2008.
- * African Soccerscapes- Peter Alegi
- * Fever Pitch- Nick Hornby, Riverhead Books, 1992, 1998.
- * Soccer Against the Enemy- How the World's Most Popular Sport Starts and Fuels Revolutions and Keeps Dictators in Power by Simon Kuper, Nation Books, 2006.
- * The Global Game book contains an extensive bibliography of books and articles about the game in many lands and eras.

Week 1: Origins and Soccer Cultures

T 22/6 Introduction and Origins

Film clips, "Origins."

The Cup (Bhutan)

Th 24/6 Soccer Cultures

Lecture, guest speakers.

Readings:

- * Galeano- pages 1-94.
- * Read 2 articles in Soccer and Society volume 11 numbers 1 and 2 about South Africa and African soccer.

Watch on your own- The Cup (Bhutan)

Recommended: * theglobalgame.com -do a search under a country or topic.

* S & S- Articles about the development of the game in many lands, including volume 10 issue 6 about minorities, volume 10 issues 5 and 1 Australia, volume 10 issues 3, 4 Scandinavia, volume 9 issue 2 from England to the world, volume 7 issues 2 and 3 "fringe nations" volume 2 number 2, articles about the development of the game in various countries including Tibet, volume 6 numbers 2 and 3 India, volume 2 number 3 the Deaf Community;

Week 2: Loyalties, Gender,

T 29/6 loyalties

Loyalties to a local team or country, fans, discussion. Guest speakers from the timbers Army.

Clips from "Pitch Fever" (U.K.) "Manly Games" (Czech Republic) and "Dribbling Fate" (Cape Verde.) Guests- fans.

Th 1/7 Gender

Lecture about the history of women and Football, Guest speaker about women's college teams and play, masculinities. "Gregory's Girl" (Scotland) and clips from "Forerunners," discussion.

Readings:

Galeano - read to page 162.

The Global Game read sections 1 and 2.

S & S Volume 4, number 2,3, Summer/Autumn 2003, * Andrei Markovits- Women's Soccer in the United States: Yet Another American 'Exceptionalism.' * Fan Hong- Will the 'Iron Roses' Bloom Forever? Women's Football in China.

Watch on your own Shoalin Soccer (Hong Kong.)

Recommended: * Soccer and Society volume 8 number 2 and 3 about fan cultures * Alan Bairner- After the War? Soccer, Masculinity and Violence in Northern Ireland in (ed.) Don Sabo- Masculinities, Gender Relations, and Sport (On course reserve.) * Cultural Differentiation 1920-1945 in (ed) J.A. Mangan- Sport in Europe (On reserve.) * Shari Dworkin- Just Do...What? Sport, bodies, gender in (ed.) Sheila Scranton- Gender and Sport; A Reader. (On course reserve.)

Thursday 1/7 FIRST PAPER DUE.

Week 3 Fanatics, Nationalism, War and Peace, Soccer as a source of conflict and unity

T 6/7

Hooliganism-lecture, different theories, cross-cultural variations, racism, Football and anti-racism, discussion.

Readings:

*The British Journal of Sociology Volume 50 #3 September 1999, pages 419-442, Les Back- Beyond the Racist Hooligan Couplet. * Soccer and Society Volume 1 number 1 2000 Richie Moran- Racism in Football: A Victim's Perspective.

The Global Game-sections 3 and 4

Tuesday 6/7 PROVIDE THE NAMES OF THE TWO FANZINES YOU WILL WRITE ABOUT OR YOUR IDEA FOR A FANZINE.

Th 8/7 Lecture, war and peace in the Middle East, WW1, WW2, "the Soccer War. " Clips from "Victory" (USA.) selections from "Goal Dreams" (Palestine) and "Sons of Sakhnin"; "Cup Final" (Israel)

*Cesar Torres- Futbol. Politicians and the People- Argentina, in Sport in Latin American Society edited by J.A. Mangan. (On reserve.) * Journal of Contemporary History- Volume 20 number 3, July 1985, pages 363-378 Colin Veitch- Play up! Play up! And win the war. (First World War.)

For Thursday watch on your own "Bend it Like Beckham" (U.K.)

Recommended: * The British Journal of Sociology Volume 48 number 4 December 1997 576-593 Anthony King- The Postmodernity Of Football Hooliganism. * Sociology Volume 31 number 2 May 1997 pages 329-346 Anthony King- The Lads: Masculinity and the New Consumption of Football-* Culture, Sport, Society Vo 3 number 1, 2000, pages 61-87 Paul Darby- Football, Colonial Doctrine, and Indigenous resistance.

Week 4: Globalization and the future

T 13/7 Global media, manufacturing stars, a guest representing one of the world's largest manufacturers of sport equipment. Sweatshop labor, speaker representing an anti-globalization group.

Readings:

* Finish Galeano's book

* The Global Game- section 5

SECOND PAPER OUTLINE DUE.

Th 15/7 Last day of class- Exam and then picnic and a game, invite friends.

EXAM.

SECOND PAPER DUE

Highly recommended;

Watch a game of a local team including and the Portland Timbers.
Play.

Just as a game is ever changing during its 90 minutes of play, due to individual brilliance, group unity, the direction of the wind, mistakes of the referee, the influence of the crowd, injury or luck, this schedule too might change depending on the availability of speakers and class dynamics.

GRADE:

The grade will be comprised of 3 equal parts:

- * Participation in class discussion and coming to class with the readings prepared and willing to share your knowledge and love of the game.

- * Exam on the last day of class, July 15. The test will cover the readings, lectures including by our guests, and films including those watched outside the class.

- * 2 papers, each 3 pages in length.

The first, due 1/7 is about Women's Football. Read the articles in Volume 4 Number 2/3 Summer/ Autumn 2003 of "Soccer and Society"

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g723691432~db=all>

about the USA and China and an additional article about a country of your choice. Each article is about the development of the game in a specific country (Norway, Korea etc.) Compare the unique Football conditions and circumstances of that country with those of the USA and China. You may look at prevailing social values, the influence of males, the role played by the media, the role of religion, special challenges faced by the players, and prospects for future development. It is not necessary, but if you wish, you can also look at extra sources.

The second paper, due July 15th, will be about (print or web) Fanzines. Choose 2 fanzines and compare them. Some of the aspects you might examine are- the intended audience, who the author/s are and what can you infer about them from their work, what distinguishes each publication, what is the perspective, is the language academic or slang laden, is there humor or sarcasm, is the writing style chatty or distant, what about the graphic layout, what is the source of the zine's name, are there political concerns, do they take a stand on racism, class, sexism, who are the heroes and villains, etc. You can locate the zines by a simple search under "name of team+fanzines" or through such sites as the "links" section of When Saturday Comes <http://www.wsc.co.uk/content/view/861/68/> Please give me the names of the 2 fanzines by Tuesday July 6th. You also may create your own Fanzine. If so, the fanzine should show evidence of familiarity with fanzine culture and concern and should evidence knowledge about the team history and culture. Contacting the zine editors and interviewing them will add to your work.

Please submit all work on the due date in hard copy, adhering to MLA style. Late work will result in a grade being deducted for every late day. (If your grade was A and you handed the work one day late it will be A-, and so on.) If there are "circumstances beyond your control" please let me know.

Integrity, respect for your fellow students and instructor, and handing in original work are expected. All work that you submit must be your original work and written only for this class. If you use sources (quotations, ideas, paraphrases) that you did not generate, you must

acknowledge them. Cheating and plagiarism will result in failing the class. If you are unsure about any of these, please consult the Student Conduct Code or come talk with me. Attendance is required. After 2 missed hours, a grade will be deducted from your final grade for the term, one letter grade for each hour missed.

More resources:

The Frank Cass “Sports in the Global Society” series is a good place to start. Some of the books are available at PSU while others can be swiftly ordered through Summit.

* Among the premier academic journals about soccer and sport are “Soccer and Society,” “Sport in Society,” “European Journal for Sport and Society” and “The International Journal of the History of Sport.” “Sociology” and “The British Journal of Sociology” also contain studies of Football.

There are thousands of web sites devoted to the game. Some of the most useful ones for this class are

* www.theglobalgame.com many excellent articles about the game and its world-wide connections.

* Must Read Soccer <http://mustreadsoccer.com/> some of the best and worst articles about the game.

* From a left Field <http://fromaleftwing.blogspot.com/> many articles about gender, politics, art, grassroots soccer.

* Football Unlimited- of the British paper The Guardian www.football.guardian.co.uk

* Soccer Sites- www.soccer-sites.com

* The official site of the FIFA www.fifa.com which contains also a useful and fun video archive.

* SIRC The Oxford Social Issues Research Center (www.sirc.org) has a vast bibliography on football violence as well as articles about many aspects of the phenomena, from media coverage to theoretical perspectives.

* <http://www.netvasco.com.br/mauroprais/futbr/sites.html>- Many international, many about Brazil.

At any time during the quarter you are welcome to come and talk with me about anything relating to the class, game, or life.