

GLOBAL SOCCER



HST 397 | Fall 2024
Tu-Th 12:40am-2pm
Berkey Hall 111

Prof. Peter Alegi
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Old Horticulture 160D

The vision of a champion is bent over, drenched in sweat, at the point of exhaustion, when nobody else is looking.
—Mia Hamm

For the good of football, we need a team of invention, attacking ideas, and style to emerge. Even if it doesn't win, it will inspire footballers of all ages everywhere. That is the greatest reward.

—Johan Cruyff

Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.

—Nelson Mandela

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Soccer is the most popular form of global culture. This course goes beyond highlights, barstool talk, and video games to explore big questions in the global history of soccer (aka football): How did the modern game develop on and off the field? Has soccer been a force for empowerment or disempowerment? How have national, racial, ethnic, gender, class, and community identities been expressed in the game? How and why have styles of play changed over time? How have politics and capitalism influenced the game? How does a history of the rivalry between FC Barcelona vs Real Madrid help us better understand 21st-century soccer's challenges and possibilities? Since it is impossible to adequately cover the entire world in one semester, the course combines general historical trends with in-depth case studies from different countries and world regions. The intellectual goals of the course are to acquire specialized knowledge about soccer's social and political significance and to learn about the complex interactions between local and global forces in history. From a more practical standpoint, the course aims to strengthen skills of analytical thinking, writing, oral communication, and digital scholarship.

REQUIRED READINGS

There are no required books in this course. Assigned articles, chapters, and multimedia resources are posted on D2L. Lecture slides will be available on D2L *after* each class meeting.

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance: Success in this course is closely tied to class attendance. Simply put, students who come to class regularly are more likely to earn higher grades. Should a medical or other major emergency arise that will require your absence beyond one class meeting, please notify me as soon as possible. If a conflict arises between your obligation to attend class and an obligation to the University, it is your responsibility to see me in advance, to hand in all assignments on time, and to make up work missed during your absence.

Reading and Participation: You are expected to complete the assigned content *before* class meetings. Remember: it is always better to *skim read* than not to read anything at all. Participation grades will be based mainly on these criteria: How informed are your questions and comments? How much and how often have you contributed to make class discussion interesting?

Exams: There are three non-cumulative in-class exams in this course. These assessments will consist mainly of multiple-choice questions. **Exam dates: Sep. 26, Oct. 31, and Dec. 12.**

Podcast Group Project: Groups will be formed the second week of class. Each group will record and produce a professional quality 15-minute historical podcast on an aspect of the 1994 FIFA (Men's) World Cup held in the United States. Two in-class podcasting workshops will take place on Oct. 10 and Nov. 5. Additional information about this assignment, including grading criteria, deadlines, recording and editing tools, are posted on D2L. **This assignment is due by Dec. 5.**

Final grades will be determined in the following manner: Attendance/Participation = 5%; Podcast Group Project = 35%; Exams = 20% each (60% total)

Grading Scale: 90-100 = 4.0; 89-84 = 3.5; 83-80 = 3.0; 79-74 = 2.5; 73-70 = 2.0; 69-64; 1.5; 63-60 = 1.0; 59-0 = 0.0.

Note: All major assignments must be completed to pass this course.

DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

The use of phones and other devices for texting, social media, and anything other than class-related work is disruptive and therefore prohibited during class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & USE OF AI

You are encouraged to take the Spartan Code of Honor pledge [\[link\]](#). Plagiarism, unethical or dishonest use of generative AI, and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) is permitted in this course for the following activities: Brainstorming and refining your ideas; fine tuning your research questions; finding information on your topic; translating a foreign language into English; drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and checking grammar and style. The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities: Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers of a writing assignment; completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is specifically allowed by the rules. You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query. Your use of AI tools must be properly cited to abide by university policies on academic integrity. When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask me for clarification. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course [\[link\]](#).

STATEMENT ON DISABILITIES

It is MSU's policy to try to make reasonable accommodations to facilitate learning by qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need, contact me and the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities right away. I will do my very best to accommodate students who notify me in a timely manner with the proper VISA documentation.

OFFICE HOURS

My office is in Old Hort 160D. I hold office hours every Wednesday, 1-2pm, and by appointment. To contact me, send e-mail to: alegi@msu.edu — expect a response within 24 hours.

CLASS SCHEDULE

AUG. 27: INTRODUCTION & COURSE OVERVIEW

Assigned Materials

- WATCH: “Monty Python’s Philosophy Football” [\[link\]](#) and “Qatar World Cup [Last Week Tonight with John Oliver]” [\[link\]](#)
- S. Szymanski and S-M. Wieneck, *It’s Football, Not Soccer (and Vice versa)*, chapter 6
- Bruce Schoenfeld, “When a Bunch of Bloody Yanks Came for English Soccer,” *New York Times Magazine*, May 4, 2024 [\[link\]](#)

AUG. 29: TRADITIONAL BALL GAMES: THE ORIGINS OF FOOTBALL

Assigned Reading

- David Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round: A Global History of Soccer*, 3–18

SEPT. 3: MAKING MODERN SOCCER: BRITISH ORIGINS

Assigned Readings

- Tony Collins, “The Victorian Sporting Industrial Revolution,” *Sport in Capitalist Society: A Short History*, pp. 48–59

SEPT. 5: THE RISE OF PROFESSIONALISM

Assigned Readings

- Charles Korr, “West Ham United Football Club and the Beginnings of Professional Football in East London, 1895-1914,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 13, no. 2 (1978): 211–232

SEPT. 10: THE FIFA WORLD CUP: NATIONALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

Assigned Reading

- Alan Tomlinson, *FIFA: The Men, the Myths and the Money* (2014), chapter 1

SEPT. 12: EARLY HISTORY OF THE WOMEN’S GAME IN EUROPE & AMERICAS

Assigned Reading

- Brenda Elsey and Joshua Nadel, *Futbolera* (2018), chapter 2

SEPT. 17: TACTICS AND STYLES OF PLAY

Assigned Reading

- Huw Richards, “Austria and Hungary: The Danubian School,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Football* (2013), pp. 49–64

SEPT. 19: PELÉ: THE KING OF FOOTBALL

Assigned Reading

- Roger Kittleston, *The Country of Football: Soccer and the Making of Modern Brazil* (2014), pp. 77–92

SEPT. 24: MARADONA: FÚTBOL’S TRAGIC HERO?

Assigned Reading

- Eduardo Archetti, “And Give Joy to My Heart: Ideology and Emotions in the Argentinian Cult of Maradona,” in G. Armstrong and R. Giulianotti, eds., *Entering the Field*, chapter 2
- YOUTUBE: *Maradona in Naples* [\[link\]](#)

SEPT. 26: EXAM 1

OCT. 1: THE FANS (1): DERBY DAYS

- Screening and Discussion: *900 Years of Hate: Derby della Lombardia—Brescia vs. Atalanta* [\[link\]](#)

OCT. 3: THE FANS (2): “US” VS. “THEM”

Assigned Reading

- Andrew Guest, “Fans,” in *Soccer in Mind* (2022), chapter 2

OCT. 8: THE FANS (3): TORCIDAS, BARRAS, ULTRAS, HOOLIGANS

Assigned Reading

- Mark Doidge, “The Ultras,” in *Football Italia: Italian Football in an Age of Globalization* (2015), pp. 141–180
- WATCH: *ID* (1995) [\[link\]](#)

OCT. 10: PODCASTING WORKSHOP #1 IN LEADR LAB (Old Hort 112)Assigned Reading

- “Group Podcast” material on D2L

OCT. 15: THE FANS (4): UNPACKING HISTORIES OF VIOLENCEAssigned Materials

- Richard Mills, “The Maksimir Myth,” in *The Politics of Football in Yugoslavia* (2018), chapter 7

OCT. 17: FOOTBALL AND APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICAAssigned Materials

- Peter Alegi, “No Apartheid Here: Anti-racism and Professional Football in the 1960s,” in *Laduma! Soccer, Politics, and Society in South Africa*, pp. 111–135
- Anthony Suze, “The Untold Story of Robben Island: Sports and the Anti-Apartheid Movement,” *Sport in Society* 13, no. 1 (2010): 36–42
- WATCH: “Robben Island Soccer” [\[link\]](#)

OCT. 10/21-22: MSU BREAK DAYS. NO CLASS.

OCT. 24: THE 2010 WORLD CUP IN SOUTH AFRICA: IMPACT AND AFTERMATHAssigned Materials

- Peter Alegi and Liz Timbs, “The Izichwe Football Club: Youth, Sport and Masculinity in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 45, 5 (2019): 963–980

OCT. 29: FOOTBALL MIGRATION: AFRICAN PERSPECTIVESAssigned Reading

- Alegi, *African Soccerscapes*, chapter 5
- P. Darby, J. Esson, and C. Ungruhe, “Women’s Transnational Migration through Football: Possibilities, Responsibilities, and Respectability in Ghana,” *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (2024): 1–19

OCT. 31: EXAM 2**NOV. 5: PODCASTING WORKSHOP #2 (in class)**No readings assigned.**NOV. 7: ITALIAN SOCCER POLITICS: AC MILAN AND BERLUSCONI**Assigned Reading

- Nicola Porro and Pippo Russo, “Berlusconi and Other Matters: The Era of ‘Football-Politics’,” *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 5, no. 3 (2000): 348–371

NOV. 12: THE ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUEAssigned Reading

- David Goldblatt, *The Game of Our Lives*, pp. 16–37
- PODCAST: “How Gulf money is reshaping sports,” *The Turbulent World* (2023) [\[link\]](#)

NOV. 14: FC BARCELONA VS REAL MADRID: A HISTORY (1)Assigned Reading

- Sid Lowe, *Fear and Loathing in La Liga*, chapter 6
- Ramón Llopis Goig, “Identity, Nation-state and Football in Spain,” *Soccer and Society* 9, no. 1 (2008): 56–63

NOV. 19: FC BARCELONA VS REAL MADRID: A HISTORY (2)Assigned Reading

- Lowe, *Fear and Loathing in La Liga*, chap. 8–9

NOV. 21: FC BARCELONA VS REAL MADRID: A HISTORY (3)Assigned Reading

- Simon Kuper, *The Barcelona Complex*, chap. 3–4

NOV. 26: FC BARCELONA VS REAL MADRID: A HISTORY (4)Assigned Reading

- Kuper, *The Barcelona Complex*, chap. 8, 16

NOV. 28: THANKSGIVING BREAK!**DEC. 3: U.S. SOCCER TOWARD THE 2026 (MEN’S) WORLD CUP**Assigned Materials

- WATCH: *Redemption Song* [[link](#)]
- Brenda Elsey and Jermaine Scott, “Representation of Black and Latinx Communities and Women in U.S. Soccer,” FARE Report (2020) [[link](#)]

DEC. 5: 21ST-CENTURY SOCCER: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**GROUP PODCAST DUE!**Assigned Materials

- PODCAST: “Mohammed Bin Salman: The Most Powerful Man in Football?” *Heroes & Humans of Football*, May 16, 2024 [[link](#)]
- PODCAST: “Play Away the Gay,” *Hustle Rule*, June 2022 [[link](#)]
- WATCH: “Spain Soccer Head Faces Sexual Assault Charge,” *Democracy Now*, Sept. 8, 2023 [[link](#)]
- WATCH: “Sports betting boom fuels concerns over problem gambling,” *60 Minutes* (2024) [[link](#)]
- R. Bresaola, “Why are nearly half of Serie A’s teams U.S.-owned?” May 4, 2023 [[link](#)]

DEC. 12: EXAM #3 @ 12:45-2:45pm (Berkey 111)