



HIST 393: Soccer and the Modern World

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Arthurs

Location: MWF, 10:30-11:20 PM, WDB G15

Office Hours: MW 2-3 PM, WDB 302D

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Course Description: Soccer (“football” to most of the world) is widely considered the global game. Over a billion people watched the final of the 2014 World Cup, and the sport’s popularity continues to grow – even in the United States, for so long resistant to the beautiful game. Given its scope and importance, soccer can be used as a powerful lens through which to examine major questions in modern world history. How did a game that emerged in the factory towns of northern England spread so quickly to the rest of the globe? How has the sport been appropriated politically, and why have soccer teams become such important symbols of class, ethnic and national identity? Why have wars been fought over the outcome of matches? In short, how does soccer explain the modern world?

Learning Outcomes: At the end of this History course, students will be able to

- demonstrate general knowledge of the facts, concepts, and approaches of history;
- critically analyze and assess primary sources;
- critically analyze and assess secondary sources;
- conduct original historical research and report results orally and in writing;
- produce historical essays that are coherent, grammatically correct, and use proper historical documentation.

Assignments:

Reflection Assignment (5%): At the beginning of the semester, you will write a brief (approx. 2 pages) reflection on the themes of the course. You will then revisit this paper at the end of term.

Reading Responses (25%): Every week, students will post responses to questions regarding that week’s readings on eCampus; they will also formulate a question of their own for discussion. These are normally due by **5 PM on Thursdays**. Each response will be graded, with the results posted online. You can also earn additional points for that week’s assignment by commenting on your peers’ posts. While you are encouraged to engage with one other, please ensure that your first post contains your original thoughts

regarding the prompts. As these assignments are taken up in class, late work will not be accepted. Your lowest reading response grade will be dropped at the end of term.

Web Project (30%): In consultation with the instructor, students will identify and research a topic related to the themes of the course and develop a web-based project including an essay, images, and linked materials.

Preparatory Assignments (total 20%): As part of your web project, you will complete several smaller assignments. These include:

- Project proposal and preliminary bibliography (5%)
- Project outline (5%)
- Preliminary draft (10%)

Participation and Attendance (20%): This course is designed as a seminar, and will only be as interesting and dynamic as you make it. You are expected to contribute actively, constructively and professionally to our discussions. Attendance counts towards your participation grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings, with a notebook and the readings in hand. Be prepared to discuss the texts and ask questions.

Attendance counts towards your participation grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings, with a notebook and the readings in hand. Be prepared to discuss the texts and ask questions. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; however, I understand that illness and problems can arise, so you will be allowed **TWO** “free” misses over the course of the semester. Be judicious about how you use these absences. If you use up your absences early in the semester, I will not be sympathetic when you need to miss class later in the term. **You must have an attendance rate of at least 66% to pass the course.**

Readings: The following books are mandatory and available for purchase at the WVU Bookstore. Other readings, indicated by an asterisk (*), are available on eCampus.

- Franklin Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World* (Harper Perennial, 2010).
- David Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round: A Global History of Soccer* (Riverhead Books, 2008).
- Andrei S. Markovits and Lars Rensmann, *Gaming the World: How Sports Are Reshaping Global Politics and Culture* (Princeton University Press, 2010).

eCampus: Important materials – including this syllabus, discussion pages and useful links – will be posted on the course website, which can be accessed by logging on to ecampus.wvu.edu.

Course Expectations:

Assignments: Unless otherwise indicated, papers must be submitted in **HARD COPY** and stapled – not sent via email. They should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point font. Late papers will be deducted half a grade level (e.g. A to A-, B+ to B) for every day that they are late, beginning at the time at which they are due. No extensions will be given.

Communication: I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing, please ensure that you are polite and professional; an unpunctuated Blackberry message with no salutation will not be answered. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

Courtesy during Class: It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will need to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please silence all devices that may make noise during class. You may use a laptop for taking notes, but if you are distracting other students with it – e.g. by using it for Facebook, instant-messaging or videos – I will ask you to leave class.

Writing Center: Writing is one of the most important skills in this course. You are encouraged to use the Eberly Writing Studio to help you revise papers. More information on the Writing Studio's resources can be found via a link on the course eCampus page.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. At a minimum, **offenders will fail the course**. Plagiarism means “submitting, without appropriate acknowledgement, a report, notebook, speech, outline, theme, thesis, dissertation, or other written, visual, or oral material that has been copied in whole or in part from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual's academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper” (WVU Undergraduate Catalog, 2003-2005, p. 47). Plagiarism includes not only lifting passages word for word without using quotation marks (even if you cite the author!), but also the substantial use of anyone else's ideas without citing them. **Using material from the World Wide Web without citing it is plagiarism.** Your work is made stronger, not weaker, by showing that you are able to refer to the work of others and comment upon it critically. Whenever you use material word for word, you must use quotation marks and cite the proper author.

WVU Social Justice Statement: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Schedule

Week I (Jan. 9-13): Introduction and Early Origins

REFLECTION PAPER #1 DUE WED. JAN. 13.

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 3-42.
- *Robert W. Malcolmson, *Popular Recreations in English Society 1700-1850* (Cambridge University Press, 1983), 34-40, 89-117.
- *David Winner, *Those Feet: A Sensual History of English Soccer* (Overlook Press, 2013), 20-44.

Week II (Jan. 16-20): Organization and Professionalization

NO CLASS MON., JAN. 16 – MLK DAY.

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 43-82, 171-193.
- *William J. Baker, “The Making of a Working-Class Football Culture in Victorian England.” *Journal of Social History* 13.2 (1979), 241-251.
- *R.W. Lewis, “‘Touched Pitch and Been Shockingly Defiled’: Football, Class, Social Darwinism and Decadence in England, 1880-1914” in J.A. Mangan, ed., *Sport in Europe: Politics, Class, Gender* (London: Frank Cass, 1999), 117-143.
- *Colin Veitch, “Play Up! Play Up! And Win the War! Football, the Nation and the First World War, 1914-15.” *Journal of Contemporary History* 20.3 (1985), 363-378.

Week III (Jan. 23-27): Beyond Britain – The “Informal” Empire

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 112-119, 125-162, 228-247.
- *Udo Merkel, “The Hidden Social and Political History of the German Football Association (DFB), 1900-50.” *Soccer & Society* 1.2 (2000), 167-186. ***Read only through p.175***
- *J.A. Mangan, “The Early Evolution of Modern Sport in Latin America: A Mainly English Middle-Class Inspiration?” in *Sport in Latin American Society: Past and Present* (London: Frank Cass, 2002), 9-42.

Week IV (Jan. 30-Feb. 3): Individual Meetings

Week V (Feb. 6-10): Latin America – The Beautiful Game

PROJECT PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE FRI., FEB. 10.

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 263-296, 357-362, 367-395
- *José Sergio Leite Lopes, “Class, Ethnicity, and Color in the Making of Brazilian Football.” *Daedalus* 129.2 (2000), 239-270.
- *Eduardo P. 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*. (SUNY Press, 2006), 133-147.
- *Daniel Renfrew and Genesis M. Snyder, “‘When Said with a Sneer’: Translating Language, Race, and Culture Through an English Football Race Controversy.” *City & Society* 28.3 (2016), 319-340.
- Discussion with Prof. Daniel Renfrew.

Week VI (Feb. 13-17): Soccer under the Dictators

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 213-216, 253-260, 298-331, 336-345.
- *Robert S.C. Gordon and John London, "Italy 1934: Football and Fascism" 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*. (SUNY Press, 2006), 41-63.
- *Udo Merkel, "The Hidden Social and Political History of the German Football Association (DFB), 1900-50." *Soccer & Society* 1.2 (2000), 167-186. *****Read from p.175 onward*****
- *Alejandro Quiroga, "Spanish Fury: Football and National Identities under Franco." *European History Quarterly* 45.3 (2015), 506-529.
- *Robert Edelman, "A Small Way of Saying 'No': Moscow Working Men, Spartak Soccer, and the Communist Party, 1900-1945." *American Historical Review* 107.5 (2002), 1441-1474.

Week VII (Feb. 20-24): Identities, Rivalries and Politics

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 208-213.
- Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*, chs.2 and 8.
- *Cornell Sandvoss, *A Game of Two Halves: Football, Television and Globalization* (Routledge, 2003), 27-43.
- *Jim O'Brien, "'El Clasico' and the Demise of Tradition in Spanish Club Football: Perspectives on Shifting Patterns of Cultural Identity." *Soccer & Society* 14.3 (2013), 315-330.
- *Amir Ben-Porat, "'Biladi, Biladi': Ethnic and Nationalistic Conflict in the Soccer Stadium in Israel." *Soccer & Society* 2.1 (2001), 19-38.

Week VIII (Feb. 27-Mar. 3): Independent Research and Writing

OPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

PROJECT OUTLINE DUE ELECTRONICALLY BY NOON ON FRI., MAR. 3.

SPRING BREAK MARCH 6-10

Week IX (Mar. 13-17): American Exceptionalism?

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 781-791.
- *Andrei Markovits, "The Other 'American Exceptionalism': Why There is No Soccer in the United States." *Praxis International* 8.2 (1988), 120-150.
- Markovits and Rensmann, *Gaming the World*, 107-156.
- Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*, ch.10.
- Discussion with Marlon LeBlanc, Head Coach of WVU Men's Soccer.

Week X (Mar. 20-24): The Women's Game

- Markovits and Rensmann, *Gaming the World*, 157-206.
- *Jean Williams, "Football and Feminism" in Rob Steen, Jed Novick and Huw Richards, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Football* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), 181-194.

- *Fan Hong and J.A. Mangan, “Will the ‘Iron Roses’ Bloom Forever? Women’s Football in China: Changes and Challenges” in Fan Hong and J.A. Mangan, eds., *Soccer, Women, Sexual Liberation: Kicking Off a New Era* (Frank Cass, 2004), 47-66.
- *Jenny Steel and Sophie Richter-Devroe, “The Development of Women’s Football in Iran: A Perspective on the Future for Women’s Sport.” *Iran*, 41 (2003), 315-322.
- Discussion with Nikki Izzo-Brown, Head Coach of WVU Women’s Soccer.

Week XI (Mar. 27-31): The Colonial and Postcolonial Game

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 480-510.
- *Paul Dimeo, “Football and Politics in Bengal: Colonialism, Nationalism, Communalism.” *Soccer & Society* 2.2 (2001), 57-74.
- *Paul Darby, “The New Scramble for Africa: African Football Labour Migration to Europe” in J.A. Mangan, ed., *Europe, Sport, World: Shaping Global Societies* (Frank Cass, 2001), 217-244.
- *Tamba M’Bayo, “The Politics of Football in Post-Colonial Sierra Leone” in Brenda Elsey and Stanislao Pugliese, eds., *Football and the Boundaries of History: Politics, Social Change and Critical Theory* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan: forthcoming 2016).
- Discussion with Prof. Tamba M’Bayo.

Week XII (Apr. 3-7): Supporters, Violence and Social Conflict

PRELIMINARY DRAFT DUE MONDAY, APR. 3

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 543-570, 598-605.
- *Bill Buford, *Among the Thugs* (Vintage Books, 1991), 177-205.
- *Matthew Guschwan, “Riot in the Curve: Soccer Fans in Twenty-First Century Italy.” *Soccer & Society* 8.2/3 (2007), 250-266.
- *Hillsborough* documentary.

Week XIII (Apr. 10-14): Multiculturalism and the New Europe

NO CLASS FRI., APR. 14 – EASTER RECESS

- Markovits and Rensmann, *Gaming the World*, 207-270.
- *Laurent Dubois, *Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France* (University of California Press, 2010), 154-176.
- Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*, ch.6.

Week XIV (Apr. 17-21): The Contemporary Game – Money and Media

- Goldblatt, *The Ball is Round*, 682-702, 749-757, 766-773.
- Foer, *How Soccer Explains the World*, ch.7.
- *Cornell Sandvoss, *A Game of Two Halves*, 67-102.
- *Peter Berlin, “Money, Money, Money: The English Premier League” in *The Cambridge Companion to Football*, 121-135.

Week XV (Apr.24-28): Independent Research and Writing

OPTIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

FINAL PROJECT DUE FRI., APR. 28.