Course Description

This survey course will use soccer, alias association football, fútbol or futebol, as a lens to study the development of modern Latin American history, culture and politics (1860s-2014). This is a class on the cultural, social and political impact and uses of one sport in one of the most unequal regions of our modern day world. This is not a class on sports trivia or statistics. No prior knowledge of soccer, Latin American history, or Spanish/Portuguese language is required. Class discussions and readings will be conducted in English. Film screenings will be in English or feature English subtitles.

When British immigrants first introduced “the beautiful game” to Argentina in the 1860s, football was viewed as a bizarre, violent, and foreign fad. Traditional Iberian sports, be it bullfighting, cockfighting, or ranching contests soon lost favor in a region redefined by European immigration during the late nineteenth century. Early on, football competed with other British exports like polo, rugby, cricket and a slew of innovative sports from the United States (baseball, “American football,” basketball, etc.). And yet, today football is without a doubt the single most important sport in Latin America. It transcends athletics, causes nationwide school cancellations, and brings extreme joy and desperation to its followers. Some have called it “an exercise in suffering.” Some might say that that the preparations for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil have certainly proven this point.

This course will trace the trajectory of both the sport and the Latin American societies that received and molded soccer into the cultural force that it is today. Football has been used to fabricate national identities, promote multi-racial societies, and, of course, entertain the masses. We will explore these facets of its impact on twentieth-century Latin American history, while acknowledging the more odious use of the sport in upholding dictatorships, drug trafficking and misogyny.

Films:
Estadio Nacional (Chile)
The Two Escobars (Colombia)
O Ano que Meus Pais Sairam de Ferias (Brazil)
Required Books:


Margolis, Maxine L. *Goodbye, Brazil: Émigrés from the Land of Soccer and Samba.* Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013. (on 2-hour Reserve)


(Articles with an asterisk * are found on Blackboard under Course Materials)

Course Structure

*Participation: 10%*

Grade based on active class participation, online reading responses

Assigned readings are to be completed in time for Thursday discussions

*Midterm Exam I: 25%*

Oct. 2, 2014 (Week 5) – In-Class Exam

*Research Paper: 40%*

Oct. 28, 2014 (Week 9) – Outline and Annotated Bibliography (10%)

Nov. 25, 2014 (Week 13) – Finished Paper (8-10 pgs.) Due In Class (30%)

*Midterm Exam II: 25%*

Dec. 11, 2014 (Week 15) – In-Class Exam
Course Schedule

Week 1 – “The Beautiful Game” When It Was Ugly
9/2 – Introduction – Mobs, Muscles, and Refined Englishmen
9/4 – Sport, Culture and Recreation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America
   - Tenenbaum & McElveen, “The British in Mexico,” 52-79 *

Week 2 – Science, Gender & Sport
9/9 – British economic and French cultural power in South America – map (Gaffney)
9/11 – The first football matches in Latin America – Excerpts from The Mexican Herald
   - Windler, “Madame Durocher’s Performance” in Gender, Sex & Power, 52-70
   - Piccato, “‘Such a Strong Need’: Sexuality and Violence” in GS&P, 87-108
   - Parker, “Dueling and the Unwritten Rules” in GS&P, 109-122

Week 3 – Elites, Football & Amateur Glory
9/16 – Social Clubs, Students and Factories
9/18 – Technology and the Creole Challenge
   - Elsey, Citizens and Sportsmen, 1-11 & 17-89
   - Bocketti, “Playing with National Identity,” 71-89 *

Week 4 – Fragile Bodies & Scientific Truths
9/23 – Mass Media, Nationalism & the World Cup
9/25 – Latin American Bodies and Eugenics
   - Leys Stepan, Hour of Eugenics, 1-101

Week 5 – Masculinity, Labor & Sport
9/30 – What Does It Mean To Be Male?: Working Women & Labor Unions
10/2 – MIDTERM I (In-Class)
   - Leys Stepan, *Hour of Eugenics*, 102-170
   - Green, “Doctoring the National Body” in GS&P, 187-211

**Week 6 – Music, Good Neighbors & National Pride**

10/7 – Redefining Latin America, One Culture At a Time

10/9 – New Musical Cultures: Samba, Tango & Mariachi
   - Archetti, “Masculinity, Primitivism, and Power” in GS&P, 212-229
   - Davis, “Racial Parity and National Humor,” 176-192 *
   - Nájera-Ramírez, “Engendering Nationalism,” 1-14 *

**Week 7 – Latin America in World War II: Looking Inward**

10/14 – Axis vs. Allies vs. Latin American Neutrality (NO CLASS)

10/16 – National Tragedies: Understanding Brazil through Maracaná
   - Elsey, *Citizens and Sportsmen*, 90-164
   - Nadel, “Left Out: Women’s Soccer,” 208-238 *

**Week 8 – Blackness, Racial Integration & the Golden Age of Soccer**

10/21 – Pelé: A Black Kid Becomes “The King”

10/23 – Garrincha: A Black Factory Worker Becomes “The People’s Joy”
   - Elsey, *Citizens and Sportsmen*, 165-241
   - Pereira, “Domíngos da Guia, a Mestizo Hero,” 147-164 *
   - da Silva, “Pelé, Racial Discourse & the 1958 World Cup,” 36-47 *
   - Leite Lopes, “The ‘People’s Joy’ Vanishes,” 103-129 *(optional)*

**Week 9 – Populism, Urbanization, and the Temples of the Gods**

10/28 – PAPER OUTLINE & ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS

10/30 – El Salvador, Honduras and the Misnamed “Soccer War”
   - González de Bustamante, *Muy Buenas Noches*, xxi-78
Week 10 – Television, the Cold War and the 1970 World Cup

11/4 – Color Television, Mass Media, and Massacres

11/6 – FILM: *The Year My Parents Went on Vacation*; Brazilian Military Rule
- González de Bustamante, *Muy Buenas Noches*, 107-216

Week 11 – Student Movements, University Spirit and Political Repression

11/11 – FILM: *Estadio Nacional*: The Songs of Chile, Victor Jara and General Pinochet

11/13 – How to be a College Student in the 1970s: La U. de Chile and UNAM
- Partnoy, *The Little School*, 7-136
- Grant Wahl, “While the World Watched: World Cup Brings Back Memories of Argentina’s Dirty War” (optional)
- Frazier, “Gendering the Space of Death” in *GS&P*, 261-282 (optional)
- Elsey, *Citizens & Sportsmen*, 242-253 (optional)
- Florenzano, “Dictatorship, Redemocratization and Brazilian Football,” 147-166 (optional)

Week 12 – The 1980s: Unemployment, Narcotics and Maradona

11/18 – FILM: *The Two Escobars*

11/20 – Colombia Refuses to Host 1986 World Cup
- Ceballos & Cronshaw, “Evolution of Armed Conflict in Medellín,” 110-131

Week 13 – Latino Migrations: The Champions League and Champion Farmers

11/25 – Migrant Farmers & Fathers (RESEARCH ESSAY DUE IN CLASS)

11/27 – THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)
- Maxine Margolis, *Goodbye Brazil*, 3-102
Week 14 – The Struggles of Being Middle-Class (or Not)
12/2 – Falling Pesos, or the Perpetual Crisis of the Latin American Family
12/4 – Unemployment, Ultras, and Intolerance: “How Am I Not Going to Love You?!?”
- Maxine Margolis, Goodbye Brazil, 121-231

Week 15 – Brazil 2014: How to Host a Mega-Event and Get Away With It
12/11 – MIDTERM II (In-Class)

Additional Optional Reading Material:


