

HIS 154 – History of Latin America through Soccer (1867-2014)
University of Rochester - Fall 2014
Prof. Pablo Sierra

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Location: GRGEN 109

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Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30-1:30 p.m. @ Rush Rhees 458

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 Férias (Brazil)

Required Books:

Elsey, Brenda. *Citizens and Sportsmen: Fútbol and Politics in Twentieth-Century Chile*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012. (available as free e-Book via library)

González de Bustamante, Celeste. *Muy Buenas Noches: Mexico, Television, and the Cold War*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2012. (available as free e-Book)

Leys-Stepan, Nancy. *The Hour of Eugenics: Race, Gender and Nation in Latin America*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991. (on 2-hour Reserve at library)

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

Partnoy, Alicia. *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival*. San Francisco: Midnight Editions/Cleis Press, 1998. (on 2-hour Reserve)

French, William E. and Bliss, Katherine Elaine, eds. *Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Latin America since Independence*. Lanham: Rowman & Littleman, 2007. (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 *
- Muñoz Cabrejo, “The New Order: Diversions and Modernization,” 153-163 *

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*

- Jakubs, “The Anglo-Argentines: Work, Family and Identity,” 135-157 *
- 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 Maracanã

- 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, “Domingos 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)
http://espn.go.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/11036214/while-world-watched-world-cup-brings-back-memories-argentina-dirty-war
- 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 *
- Mauricio Rubio, “Perverse Social Capital,” 805-816 *

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

12/9 – “Let Them Eat Soccer:” Opportunity, Corruption & Social Reform in the 21st c.

12/11 – MIDTERM II (In-Class)

Additional Optional Reading Material:

Durham, William. *Scarcity and Survival in Central America: Ecological Origins of the Soccer War*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1979.

Feitlowitz, Marguerite. *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Gaffney, Christopher. *Temples of the Earthbound Gods: Stadiums in the Cultural Landscapes of Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2008.

Galeano, Eduardo. *Soccer in Sun and Shadow*. New York: Nation Books, 2013.

Goldblatt, David. *The Ball is Round: A Global History of Soccer*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2008.

Lever, Janet. *Soccer Madness: Brazil’s Passion for the World’s Most Popular Sport*. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press, 1995.

Magazine, R. *Golden and Blue Like My Heart: Masculinity, Youth and Power Among Soccer Fans in Mexico City*. Tucson: University of New Mexico Press, 2007.

Stavans, Ilan, ed. *Fútbol*. Santa Barbara: Greenwood, 2011.