COURSE DESCRIPTION

Soccer is a global pastime. From its uncertain origins in mid-nineteenth century England to its present-day status as a world-wide business and mass phenomenon, soccer has gone through dramatic transformations that have affected the sport itself but also the societies in which it is practiced. At the same time, soccer is a powerful marker of national and other types of collective identities. Flags, hymns, rivalries, myths, heroes, loyalties, and even violence, have become over time central elements of the practice of soccer, sometimes as or more important than playing style or tactics on the field.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This class will explore the complex and intertwined history of soccer in Spain and Spanish America from the late nineteenth century to present times, using nationalism (and related processes such as globalization) as key elements to understand its evolution. Students will acquire a solid understanding of the place of soccer in society and their connection to the formation of national identities, while at the same time will deepen their knowledge of the history of both Spain and Spanish America.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

We will meet for two hours three times per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) for lectures and discussion. In addition, we will watch a film or documentary every Wednesday afternoon, followed by discussion.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

Two quizzes: 10 points each; 20 total points.
Midterm exam: 30 points
Final exam: 40 points
Attendance and participation: 10 points.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

1. The Origins of Soccer in Spain and Spanish America
2. Soccer and the Working Classes (1890-1930)
3. Soccer, Populism, and Nationalism in Brazil and Argentina

Week 2

4. Soccer and International Competitions in South America and Europe
5. “Dionysians” and “Apollonians”: Competing “National” Soccer Styles in Europe and South America
6. Soccer, Race, and National Identity in Brazil

WEEKEND: WILL ATTEND A SOCCER GAME IN OVIEDO OR GIJÓN (DEPENDING ON SCHEDULE)

Week 3

7. Soccer and the Spanish Civil War

Week 4

10. Soccer and national rivalries in Latin America
11. Soccer and peripheral nationalisms in Spain: the Basque Country and Catalunya
12. “La roja”: the history of the Spanish national team

EXCURSION TO MADRID

Week 5

13. Soccer and globalization: an overview
14. Effects of globalization on “national” soccer cultures
15. The World Cup and the forging of soccer nationalism

COURSE READINGS


**Standard citation needs to include:** APA