*The primary task of a useful teacher is to teach his students to recognize* inconvenient *facts—I mean the facts that are inconvenient for their party opinions* (Max Weber). Critical thinking is essential. One cannot be a good global citizen without being a critical thinker and understanding causal relationships around the globe.

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INTA 3242: Soccer and Global Politics

T-TH 12:05 – 1:25 • IC 207

There are no prerequisites for this course

This course fulfills the Social Science and Global Perspective GEN ED requirements at Georgia Tech.

**Course Description**: This course introduces students to the multiple ways in which soccer is a lens to understand social, cultural, economic, and political forces as well as the ways in which soccer acts as an agent for change. There are multiple arenas of political life that can be shaped or explained through soccer. These include, for example:

1. the tensions between cosmopolitanism and tribalism (London vs. Buenos Aires)
2. language vs. blood/land as a source of primal identity in homeland societies (Athletic Bilbao vs. Barcelona).
3. Anarchism and fascism (Carsi vs. Lazio/Real Madrid)
4. Gender equity (Japan vs. USA vs. Norway)
5. Government using sport in bread and circus to distract the population (see Italy under Mussolini, Iran and North Korea in World Cups, Brazil and Argentina in 2013.
6. Democracy vs. electoralism: Fifa, AFA, and more.
7. Colonialism and imperialism: FIFA in Arica, baseball in Nicaragua and Cuba vs. soccer in Costa Rica.
8. Religion and Politics: The Maradoniano church, San Lorenzo and the Pope, Atlanta FC, Turkey and Iran rejecting and later embracing soccer. Tottenham vs. Chelsea.
9. Identity formation in immigrant societies (Garra Charrua in Uruguay and embrace of Brazilian ethnicity)
10. Core, Periphery and Semi-Periphery. Can the US ever enter the core or global soccer powers? The Elk Horn effect. The David Beckham effect? The Dirk Nowitzky effect?
11. Folklore and rationalization. Spain in World Cups and Euro Cups.
12. The allure and failure of Pharoanic projects, megaevents, the allure of modernization theory for development. Why did South Africa build so many stadia that they did not need? Why is there a huge stadium in Leira Portugal and Cuiba Brazil? Soccer explains Lukes 3rd face of power and Galtung’s harmony of interests between global elites at FIFA and elites in their own countries through glamour and construction money.
13. The limitations of facebook, twitter, technology to start a revolution. Al Ahly in Egypt and the truce in Istanbul.
14. Diego Maradona, Argentina, and the Paradox of Plenty.
15. What is a state? Frank Zappa, Gibraltar, Palestine, UN vs. FIFA and the power of enforcement
16. Federalism, regionalism, and western expansion—Portland Timbers and Cuiabá American football.
17. Globalization and the spread of ideas and power
18. Social class and working class: Defensor de la Huelga

**Learning Outcomes:**

*Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.*

*Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.*

*Cultural and ethical awareness.  Students will become more aware of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.  Able to understand and articulate key issues with respect for a range of different variables.*

*Students will demonstrate mastery of the comparative method for generating inference with two cases.*

*Students will demonstrate understanding of soccer as both a lens for understanding political and social concepts and dynamics and as a causal variable for change.*

**Required Texts:** All students must purchase 2 books; available at Engineers Books. Additional readings will be added to TSQUARE with the date for class in title.

Markovits, Andrei and Lars Rensmann. 2010. *Gaming the World: How Sports Are Reshaping Global Politics and Culture.* Princeton.

Foer, Franklin. 2004. *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization*, Harper Collins, New York.

**List of Graded Assignments:**

Midterm: 25%

Book or Films Written Assignment: 10%. Students are to read one soccer novel or approved book and write a five-page paper that merges the book with one of the topics covered in class. A rubric can be found in the Resources tab of TSQUARE as well as a list of potential books. Students can also select their own book and please feel free to discuss with professor at office hours. Students can alternatively watch two films that in part cover one thematic topic of the course. An assortment of soccer films will be put on reserve at library.

Group Project: 20%. Groups of 3-4 will do a 2 case study of one of the themes of soccer and global politics. This can be one of those listed above or one proposed by group. Must follow the comparative method. A grading rubric will be posted to T-Square. Be sure to check the library guide at <http://libguides.gatech.edu/soccerpol> for help with your research.

Final Exam: 30% (Final exam given at time as shown on GT calendar)

Quizzes: 15%

Professor can choose to provide a bonus to students whose participation demonstrates preparation and contributions.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory as is reading before class. There will be 7 short pop quizzes at the beginning of class on reading. The two lowest scores will be dropped and the remaining 5 quizzes will count as 15% of your final grade. Reading while texting, watching TV, or other multitasking activity is likely not enough. **If you do not like to read, this is not the class for you.**

**ADAPTS**

The professor will work with ADAPTS so that all students have an equal opportunity for success. For information on ADAPTS, see <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

**Honor Code Statement:**

Plagiarizing is defined by Webster’s as “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source.”If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

For more information see: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

**Schedule:**

1/7 Introduction

1/9 Gaming Chapter 1

1/14 Gaming Chapter 2

1/16 Excerpt on Comparative Method

1/21 Excerpt on Sport and the Working Class

1/23 Gaming Chapter 3

1/28 American Exceptionalism: *Offside* Chapter 1; Paul St. John NYTimes articles

1/30 Soccer and Anarchism: Carsi readings

2/4 Soccer and Fascism: Martin Introduction, Tremlett Madrid, Italian Ultras

2/6 Foer Ch. 1 and 2

2/11 meet with groups on projects

2/13 meet in Library with Mary Axford

2/18 TBA

2/20 Foer Ch. 3 and 4

2/25 Film on World Cup South Africa

2/27 Generation June from ESPN

03/04 Midterm Exam

03/06 Gaffney article on Stadia Buenos Aires

03/11 Chapter 1 and 2 Taylor Uruguay and Argentina

03/13 Arocena and Bowman Lesson Latin America

03/18 Spring Break

03/20 Spring Break

03/25 Maranhão Apollonians and Dionysians

03/27 Ball The Quarrymen

04/1 Barça vs. Real Madrid TBA

04/3 China and India TBA

4/8 Darby: Africa, Colonialism, and FIFA

4/10 Africa: Section from Ian Hawkey

4/15 Africa: Section from Bloomfield

4/17 Gender and Soccer TBA

4/22 Group Presentations

4/24 Group Presentations