Program: CET Shanghai
Course Code / Title: (SH/HIST 150) The History of Global Soccer
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: History / Global Studies, International Relations, Area Studies, Sports Education
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description
It is, by far, the planet’s most popular sport. More than a billion people play the game and billions more watch it on a regular basis. Its rules are simple; its mode of execution almost infinite. It is a fine art form, and war by other means. Manipulated by rulers and the plaything of tyrants, oligarchs, oil tycoons, and myriad capitalists, it remains, nevertheless, the peoples’ game, created and developed by working people and lowly folk and enjoyed by every nation, race, and religion around the globe. Soccer/football is the only truly global sport, unrivalled in its reach and passionate international following.

This course uncovers the broad contours of the history of the game, from its humble beginnings among the industrial working class of Britain to its present global preeminence through constant expansion and growth. The history of global soccer is therefore a history of the modern world, reaching well beyond the biography of a popular game. It is impossible to understand the history of the game without placing it within its proper global context. What are soccer’s origins? Who invented it? How, why, and where did it develop? How did it travel, settle, and thrive in societies throughout the world? Why the global attraction, expansion, and continued popularity? How do we account for the different styles and philosophy of playing the game? These are some of the key questions students address in this course.

Objectives
At the end of this course, students will be able to:
• explain the general history of soccer in its global context;
• understand how and why soccer developed in various geographical regions around the world;
• analyze how the history of global soccer is connected with the modern historical experiences of the world;
• interpret secondary and primary sources, weighing and utilizing historical evidence, and thereby advancing critical thinking skills;
• relate historical events and socio-economic structures to cultural and political practices on national and regional levels.
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Course Requirements
Students are required to complete all assigned reading materials before each class. This is vital as students are expected to actively participate in class discussion. Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

The assignments required for this course are:

• a brief weekly response of about 200 words summarizing the week’s assigned readings. For these responses, students are expected to summarize the main points of the readings, while generating questions for group discussion.
• a short essay of about 750 words on the history of a club or national team. Students provide a brief outline of the history of their favorite club or national team, or any that they choose, paying attention to the motives behind the founding of the team/club, the prime movers in the team’s or club’s formation, and the team’s/club’s development, achievements, and challenges over time to the present.
• a take-home midterm essay of 1,500 words on a topic selected from a list of possible essay prompts.
• a final examination with short answer and essay questions using course content and their own analysis.

Grading
The composition of the final grade is listed below:

• 10% Weekly response
• 15% Short essay
• 25% Midterm essay
• 20% Class preparation and discussion
• 30% Final exam

Readings


Syllabus of Record

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Syllabus of Record


Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – The Prehistory of Soccer

Topic 2 – British Origins of the Modern Game: Nation and Class
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Topic 3 – The "Origins Debate"

Topic 4 – Industrial Football: The People’s Game

Topic 5 – The Global Diffusion of Football
  - Continental Europe
  - America—los ingleses locos
  - Africa
  - Asia

Topic 6 -- Resistance and Retardation: Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA

Topic 7 – Gender and Soccer: The Origins and Rise of Women’s Soccer

Topic 8 – The Commercialization and Professionalization of Soccer, 1914-1934

Topic 9 – The Global Governance of the Game: The Formation of FIFA, Soccer at the Olympics, and the World Cup

Topic 10 – How Mussolini Won the World Cup: Mussolini, Hitler, Franco, Fascism, and the Beautiful Game

Topic 11– The Rise of Latin American Dominance of the Game: Uruguay, Brazil, and Argentina

Topic 12 – The Postwar Soccer Boom in Europe and Latin America

Topic 13 – An American Success Story: US Women’s Soccer in Comparative Perspectives

Topic 14 – The World’s Game and Global Capitalism

Topic 15 – The Ugly Side of the Beautiful Game: Racism and Anti-Racism

Topic 18 – The Current Rise of Soccer in Asia

Topic 19 – FIFA, Sepp Blatter, and the World’s Game: An End and a Beginning?