

**SPAN 3650 The Transnational Game:  
Soccer, Social Justice, and National Identity**  
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
Marquette University  
Spring 2023

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **OFFICE HOURS**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world. In Latin America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, soccer is inextricably connected to national identity, and thus to politics and the economy. This course will use short stories, essays, poems, film, documentaries, chants and rituals, music, social media, and other cultural artifacts to examine soccer not as just a sport, or in isolation. Rather, democracy, dictatorships, economics, gender inequality, racial and social inequalities, LGBTQ+ rights, inclusion, and violence are examined through the lens of national fervor for this transnational sport. Prerequisite: SPAN 3001/3005 or department consent.

## **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Readings are available on D2L.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will:

1. Discuss soccer as a transnational game that embodies larger and complex issues of national identity, politics, economics, gender discrimination, homophobia, racial and social inequalities, and violence.

2. Evaluate stereotypes and misconceptions regarding soccer to understand its broader societal impact.
3. Reflect on the potential role of soccer and other sports in promoting social justice.
4. Acquire critical thinking and cross-disciplinary problem-solving skills that are useful in both professional and academic contexts now and in the future.
5. Develop skills in Spanish narration to discuss and support opinions about issues that are of importance to individuals and society at large.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is organized around ten units. Methods of instruction include lecture, small and large group discussion, inquiry, discovery, hands-on activities, and problem-based learning.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Reading Summaries	20%
Participation/Interaction	20%
Group Final Project	20%
Reflection	10%
Exams (4)	30%

**Reading summaries (20%):** In order to prepare for class, you are required to write a summary/critical reaction statement for each reading and submit it to D2L by 11:59 p.m. the night before class. You must refer to specific information in the reading to support your reaction statement. Each summary/critical reaction statement should be about 200-250 words (about one page, double-spaced). Evaluation criteria are available on D2L. Late work is not accepted.

**Participation/Interaction (20%):** You should participate actively in class activities and perform to the best of your ability to have a successful learning experience in this course. Engaged participation is essential to both your personal success and to everyone's success in having a rewarding classroom experience. Each week, your instructor will assess your participation using the criteria provided (see attached). Your instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of 0 in participation for inappropriate classroom etiquette or disrespectful or disruptive behavior.

Note: Use of cell phones, laptops or other electronic devices is not permitted during class without instructor approval.

**Group Final Project (20%):** For the group final project, you will be assigned to work in a group to investigate a topic related to soccer and its broader social impact. Drawing from course readings and discussions, cultural artifacts, and your group’s own research, your team will create a project consisting of a podcast and presentation. Guidelines and evaluation criteria are provided in D2L.

**Reflection (10%):** Based on your group project and other assignments, you will write an individual reflection to reflect on your learning in relation to the course learning outcomes. Guidelines and evaluation criteria are provided in D2L. [Click here for a sample reflection.](#)

**Exams (30%):** There are four exams during the semester. The exams are based on reading assignments, homework, and in-class activities and discussions. No make-up exams will be given except in the case of participation in a Marquette sponsored event or if you experience a critical illness or other traumatic life event. Under these circumstances, appropriate written documentation should be provided to the instructor.

## GRADING SCALE

A	95-100	B-	81-83	D+	69-71
A-	90-94	C+	78-80	D	66-68
B+	87-89	C	75-77	F	0-65
B	84-86	C-	72-74		

## COURSE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Take time to read the information on policies and guidelines found in this syllabus and in the documents located in the Course Information module in the Content section of this course.

**Late Work Policy:** Meeting deadlines is critical in this course and will be enforced. All course work must be submitted by the assigned due date. Work submitted late and without prior communication with me will not be accepted. Please communicate with me in a reasonable amount of time (more than 24 hours before an assignment due date) if you need to request an extension on a specific assignment. Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If a student fails to complete three assignments

by the assigned due dates and has not notified the instructor, the instructor may withdraw the student from the course.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

**Academic Honesty:** You are expected to complete your own work. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, individual violations, helping another student with any form of academic misconduct, failing to report any form of academic misconduct, or intentionally interfering with the educational process in any manner. Faculty, staff, or students who are aware of academic misconduct and fail to report it are considered complicit in these actions. See the undergraduate bulletin for descriptions of four forms of academic misconduct: **cheating, plagiarism, academic fraud, and research misconduct.**

**Students with Special Needs:** Your success in this course is important to me. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this course, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Office of Disability Services. If you are unsure of what you need to qualify for services, contact the Office of Disability Services at 414-288-1645 or visit their [webpage](#).

**Withdrawal Deadline:** The deadline for students to withdraw from a class in the fall semester with a grade of "W" is 4/14/23. Thereafter, withdrawals can only be issued by the Dean's office. A grade of Incomplete is only given in unusual circumstances at the discretion of the instructor, and only considered when the student has made satisfactory progress in the course (grade of B/C or better). Please consult the university's academic calendar for additional important dates.

**Withdrawal for Excessive Absences:** Your instructor reserves the right to withdraw you from this course if you miss the equivalent of more than two weeks of classes prior to the withdrawal deadline of 4/14/23. Under this scenario, your instructor will complete an Instructor's Absence Report Form and you will receive a grade of WA. If you reach the equivalent of more than two weeks of absences after the WA deadline, your final course grade will be reduced by one increment on the grading scale for each subsequent absence

(A to A-, A- to B+, etc). See the Arts and Sciences [Academic Regulations](#) in the Bulletin for more information.

**Mental Health:** If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact the Counseling Center at (414) 288-7172 during business hours or visit their [webpage](#). For help outside business hours, contact the Department of Public Safety at (414) 288-6800 and ask to speak to the on-call counselor.

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Tentative Schedule**

**Unit 0:** *Introduction to the course*

**Unit 1:** *¿Qué es ser un hincha?*

**Unit 2:** *El fútbol y la construcción de identidad nacional*

**Unit 3:** *La economía del fútbol: Globalización cultural y financiera*

**Unit 4:** *Igualdad de género y los derechos LGBTQ+*

**Unit 5:** *Democracia y dictaduras*

**Unit 6:** *Desigualdad racial y social*

**Unit 7:** *La violencia en el fútbol*

**Unit 8:** *Los dos Escobars: La intersección de drogas y fútbol en Colombia*

**Unit 9:** *Héroes trágicos: Diego Maradona y Zinedine Zidane*

**Unit 10:** *¿Pueden los deportes combatir el racismo y defender la justicia social?*