



HIS 3310

sports & the making of the americas

MEETINGS

SPRING 2024

T & Th 12:30-1:45 pm
ABH 240

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Rwany Sibaja
Assoc. Professor of History

BEST WAY TO REACH ME

Drop-in hours: TR 10:45am-12:15pm
Email: sibajaro@appstate.edu
Zoom ID (by appt. only):
<https://appstate.zoom.us/j/4651190141>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sports have long shaped various forms of identity across the Americas.

Upper- and middle-class citizens first embraced organized sports in the late-19th century as "civilizing" tools. Soon, activities like *fútbol* (soccer), boxing, and *béisbol* (baseball) became popular with the masses.

In HIS 3310, we will discover how sports (re)defined gender, class, race, and national identity from Canada to the Southern Cone, and US-Latin America relations.

COURSE RESOURCES

All course information (the full syllabus) & readings are accessible through the course website at:
sportsamericas.rwansibaja.com.



AsULearn will only serve as a hub for grades and attendance.



REQUIRED TECH + TEXTS



Course Textbooks (*Futbolera*, *Raceball* and "plus one" book club choice) are accessible via AsULearn, ASU bookstore, and HIS 3310 Amazon page

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PRIMARY: Trace how sports shapes identity across time and space in the Americas

01. Analyze identity formation in sport history through the use of primary and secondary sources

02. Examining socio-political issues related to sports within a larger historical context

03. Identify ways sports affected other forms of mass culture (cinema, music), politics, and social movements ... and vice versa

04. Generate new perspectives on the complexity and diversity of the Americas, as well as trace similarities across the hemisphere

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS



TAKE CARE OF YOUR EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH. REACH OUT IF YOU BEGIN TO FEEL OVERWHELMED.



SET ASIDE SPECIFIC TIME FOR COURSE READINGS AND CLASSWORK. CONSIDER THAT TIME AS "IN-CLASS."



TYPE OR WRITE DOWN NOTES AS YOU GO THROUGH THE WEEKLY READINGS.



USE THE VARIOUS CAMPUS & ONLINE RESOURCES FOR WRITING, RESEARCHING, AND CITING (AND PROJECTS).



MAKE USE OF DROP-IN HOURS TO SHARE IDEAS, GET HELP, OR GET CLARIFICATION. SCHEDULE VIA ZOOM IF NEEDED.

1

copa américa 2024

a brief look at the oldest international soccer tournament in the world

2

early history

the origins of sports in the Americas, and the ways various groups used them to construct forms of identities

3

bodies as contested spaces

a study of the body itself as a means of constructing, upholding, challenging, and subverting identities

4

sports & the americas

a survey of U.S.-Latin American relations; tournaments; player activism, and more!

UNIT FOCUS



Get to know a little more about HIS 3310 ...

- Course Format
- Course Policies
- Feedback
- Assignments

Answer:

HIS 3310 is a hybrid course: minimal lecture, discussions, student-centered learning. The key to success is to complete your weekly readings so you will be ready for what we do in class. Presentations by the instructor will only take place when they are necessary in order to move class discussions and activities forward.

What will this course look like?
Will I like it?



What do I need to know about course policies?

Answer:

HIS 3310 adheres to policies for both ASU and the Dept. of History – see the "course policies" page on the course website for specific categories.

Overall, being engaged is crucial. Attendance is not only vital for success, but it helps to avoid feeling lost or behind. Come prepared to discuss the readings, and reach out if you struggle to complete assignments by the due date. Above all, be respectful of others' opinions.

Answer:

Typical response time for non-urgent emails will be within 24-48 hours. Return time for feedback and assessment is approx. 1 week after submission or due date.*

NOTE: HIS 3310 is heavy on peer feedback and collaboration to make better use of the ALC space.

Evenings + weekends are reserved for family time and personal well-being

How will I receive feedback?



What type of assignments can I expect?

Answer:

There are 5 major assignments totaling 100% of the final grade:

- **Class Engagement (14%)**: Attendance, participation, in-class weekly reading analysis, and in-class presentations
- **Readings Choice (21%)**: Weekly reactions to course readings via blogging or Zotero notes -- 7 in total
- **Individual Research Project (35%)**: Developed as a digital product
- **Book Club (15%)**: early reaction blog post + formal book review
- **Final Exam Essay (15%)**: Personal research topic informed by course readings & individual research project





COURSE SCHEDULE



UNIT 1: 2024 COPA AMÉRICA [INTRO]

JAN
16

WEEK 01 – COURSE INTRODUCTION

Before Class: ----
During Class: Intro & Syllabus

JAN
18

W01 – INTRO, COURSE WEBSITE, & ZOTERO 101

BC: Read Zotero handout, watch part 1 of Netflix's *Sean Eternos* (subtitled)
DC: Set up Zotero account & personal library

JAN
23

W02 – ZOTERO 101, 2024 COPA AMÉRICA

BC: watch part 2 of *Sean Eternos*;
DC: Finalize Zotero tutorial; Copa América: the oldest international soccer tournament

JAN
25

W02 – ZOTERO / MESSI & THE CRISIS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

BC: Build Zotero personal library; watch part 3 of *Sean Eternos*
DC: Discuss research topics
Due: By Jan 25 email 3-5 topics for research

JAN
30

W03 – MARADONA & PELÉ: ICONS OF SOCCER / URUGUAY

BC: Compile notes on Week 03 readings; watch clips on Brazilian *futebol* one, two, three (27 mins)
DC: An overview of South American soccer

FEB
1

W03 – FANDOM, 2026 WORLD CUP / SB 58

BC: watch video on Boca-River "superclásico";
DC: A look at fandom and megaevents in the Americas / lab (research). Discuss preliminary list of secondary sources

UNIT 2: THE EARLY HISTORY OF SPORTS

FEB
6

W04 – OLD BOYS SCHOOLS & MUSCULAR CHRISTIANITY

BC: Compile notes on Week 04 readings
DC: Modern origin of organized sports & schools [making of Netflix's The English Game; If interested, watch TEG on Netflix; listen to a discussion of TEG by a group of historians from the Football Scholars Forum]

FEB
8

W04 – SPORTS AS A MISSIONARY ENDEAVOR

BC: --
DC: Role of YMCA & other groups in promoting the practice of sports
Due: By Feb 8, submit list of 8-10 secondary sources; begin adding primary sources to personal Zotero library

FEB
13

W05 – CIVILIZING THE NATION: PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORTS

BC: Compile notes on Week 05 readings
DC: Sports as a useful tool for policy leaders

FEB
15

W05 – EARLY HISTORY OF SOCCER

BC: continue to add primary sources to your Zotero collection
DC: Common roots of soccer, differences

FEB
20

W06 – EARLY HISTORY OF BASEBALL

BC: Compile notes on Week 06 readings
DC: Baseball: an American or Americas sport?

FEB
22*

W06 – NO CLASS MEETING

BC: ----
DC: asynchronous - work on assignment
Due: By Feb 22, submit list of primary sources (collections and/or individual items) in Chicago Style

FEB
27

W07 – CHOOSE YOUR STORY: EARLY HISTORY OF WRESTLING, NASCAR, SOFTBALL, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, OR BOXING

BC: Compile notes on Week 07 readings
DC: Group-led discussion of your story/sport; mini-lab refresher on posting on WP
>> Begin drafting "book club" analysis

FEB
29

W07 – LAB DAY & PRESENTATIONS (TOPIC, SOURCES)

BC: ---
DC: Present your research (topic, sources, guiding questions, approach, historiography)
Due: By Feb 29, post an analysis of the beginning of your book choice (Book Club) - Introduction and chapters 1 & 2

UNIT 3: BODIES AS CONTESTED SPACES

MAR
5

W08 – SPORT & ETHNICITY

BC: Compile notes on Week 08 readings
DC: Ethnic minorities in sports
>> Work on Annotated Bibliography (format, sources, Chicago-style citations)

MAR
7

W08 – SPORT & RACE

BC: Come to class with AB items to share
DC: Discussions of race and sports across the Americas
Due: By Mar 7, submit Annotated Bibliography of 5 key secondary sources

* sportsamericas.rwanysibaja.com/readings

COURSE SCHEDULE



[UNIT 3 CON'T / SPRING BREAK MAR 11-15]

- MAR 19** **W09 – MANHOOD & SPORTS**
 BC: Compile notes on Week 09 readings
 DC: Machismo and Southern manhood
 >> Finalize digital Book Club book review
- MAR 21** **WEEK 09 – CHALLENGING FEMININITY / FILM**
 BC: Watch [video](#) on óv6 Iowa basketball and [video](#) on Bolivian luchadoras
 DC: The "gendering" of sports & femininity
 >> Review notes on your "book club" selection to co-lead discussion
- MAR 26** **W10 – FILM**
 BC: Compile notes on Week 10 readings;
 DC: Female athletes & societal expectations
Due: By Mar 26, submit Book Club review
- MAR 28** **W10 – BOOK CLUB: FÚTBOL, JEWS, & MAKING OF ARGENTINA & ACC BASKETBALL**
 BC: ----
 DC: Small-group discussion of *Futbol, Jews & the Making of Argentina* (12:30-1:05 pm) and *ACC Basketball* (1:10-1:45pm)
- APR 2** **W11 – BOOK CLUB: WHEN BASEBALL WENT WHITE & THE RISE OF GRIDIRON UNIVERSITY**
 BC: ----
 DC: Small-group discussion of *When Baseball Went White* (12:30-1:05 pm) and *The Rise of Gridiron University* (1:10-1:45pm)
- APR 4*** **W11 – NO CLASS MEETING**
 BC: ----
 DC: Asynchronous work (individual research project)
 >> Work on draft of Individual Research Digital Project

- APR 16** **W13 – CLASS PRESENTATIONS**
 BC: --
 DC: Students present research
Due: Presentation on Assigned Day
- APR 18** **W13 – CLASS PRESENTATIONS**
 BC: --
 DC: Students present research
Due: Presentation on Assigned Day
- APR 23** **W14 – MOUNTAINEER SOCCER / FILM**
 BC: Compile notes on Week 14 reading; read this piece on [Thompson Usiyan](#); watch [this clip](#) on early 90s Colombia NT
 DC: App State soccer; View *The Two Escobars*; historical context
- APR 25** **W14 – FILM & ANALYSIS**
 BC: ---
 DC: View *The Two Escobars*; film analysis
Due: final version of Individual Research Project
- APR 30** **W15 – COURSE WRAP-UP**
 BC: Compile notes on Week 15 reading(s)
 DC: Wrapping up the course; exit survey
Due: Last day to submit Reading Choice Assignment (course readings analysis)
 >> Finalize your final exam essay (due 5/9)

FE May 2: Reading Day
 May 9: Final Exam (11 am-1:30 pm)
 May 13: Final Grades posted by 1:00pm

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

Each week - READING CHOICE [Zotero, or Blogging] assignment due by Monday 11:59pm. Work submitted before we discuss readings for the week in class.

Mar 26 - Last day to submit Book Club Assignment

Apr 16-18 - Research Presentations (DPA)

Apr 25 - Last day to submit Digital Project Assignment

May 9 - Final Exam Essay by 1:30 pm (cutoff)

UNIT 4: SPORTS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- APR 9** **W12 – SPORTS & STATE TERRORISM: SOUTHERN CONE**
 BC: Compile notes on Week 12 readings; watch [this clip](#) on Chile & stadium as site for torture
 DC: State terrorism & sports in South America
- APR 11** **W12 – SPORTS & STATE PROJECTS: NORTH AMERICA**
 BC: Watch [clip](#) Obama, baseball, & Cuba; [clip](#) on Indigenous barriers to sport in Canada; [clip](#) on Ciudad Juárez, violence, and soccer
 DC: Political uses of sport
 >> Prepare presentation for Individual Research Digital Project



A = 93+ / A- 90-92
 B+ = 87-89 / B = 83-86 / B- = 80-82
 C+ = 77-79 / C = 73-76 / C- = 70-72
 D+ = 67-69 / D = 63-66 / D- = 60-62
 F = 69 or below

PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS. I AM EXCITED TO JOIN YOU ON THE FIELD THIS SEMESTER!