AFRICAN SOCCER AS CULTURAL PRACTICE

A. Course Aims:
For many, soccer is a passionate way of life and leisure. It is a central aspect and a major pillar of popular culture on the African continent. This course is thus designed to get students to think about African soccer less as sport and more as cultural, social, and political practice. In other words, we shall focus on both the cultural and political phenomena associated with soccer in Africa. What is the role of fans and spectators? How does soccer tap into ethnic, national, and Pan-African sentiment? How did the sport become such an integral part of daily life in African societies? Where do politics and soccer intersect in African states? How does soccer link Africa to the global order and the international system?

In addition, we shall also use this course on soccer to further develop our analytical skills. To do this we will view soccer as a microcosm through which we may more sharply discern those political, cultural, social, and economic processes which are actually critical to peoples’ lives. In other words, whatever occurs within the metaphorical touch lines of the world of soccer — the small, daily politics of football — will probably reflect the same, or quite similar, fault lines present in the politics and culture of the wider society. I also assume that the quotidian, in this case as represented by the politics of football, is linked in a variety of ways to the society’s larger political and cultural arenas.

B. Course Requirements:
There will be two class sessions each week and it is expected that students will attend regularly. In some of these I will lecture, in others we will discuss and dissect the assigned readings. “Lecture,” however, should not imply that your questions, comments, and observations are out of order. Far from it. Within the limits imposed by time and the necessity of completing the course outline, student participation is actively encouraged for the instructor values dialogue more than monologue. It is thus essential that students do the reading on time (by Wednesday of each week), and appear in class ready to share their questions, thoughts, and observations. Please note that in order to facilitate a friendly and comfortable learning environment for all, recording devices of any sort will be permitted only with the instructor’s consent. With the same goal in mind, all cell phones, pagers, Ipods, and other such devices should be turned off during our class sessions. Students wishing to use laptops or tablets to take notes may do so, but please observe the following simple rules of etiquette: a) be sure your sound is off at the beginning of class; b) please stay focused on the course: surfing, gaming, or checking out Facebook entries is distracting to those around you; c) please sit up front; and d) during certain periods laptops may be prohibited (during exams or films, for example), so please respect these limitations on personal electronics.
There will be a mid-term examination on Wednesday, 19 October 2016 as well as a two-hour final examination on Wednesday, 21 December 2016 starting at 7:25 p.m. (Please note well that since you have been alerted to this unfortunate bit of university scheduling on day one of the semester, and since it has been readily available on the web since last spring, requests to take the final at alternative times because of fear of sorcery, obligations to your “big man,” or winter break travel arrangements will not fall on sympathetic ears.) In addition, undergraduates will submit a 2,500 word (roughly 10 typewritten pages) term paper dealing with a contemporary political or cultural aspect of African soccer. Graduate students (as well as undergraduate honors students) should submit a lengthier, more theoretically focused, paper of 5,000 words (or 20 typewritten pages). Honors students should treat the requirement of a lengthier paper as the “default” option. Other possibilities for fulfilling the honors requirement exist and the instructor will be happy to discuss them with you. All papers are due on Wednesday, 23 November 2016, but will be welcomed earlier. Late papers are a serious “no-no,” and will be penalized severely.

In addition, all students should submit a one-page, typewritten statement of the proposed topic which tentatively indicates some of the sources to be consulted. These paper proposals are due no later than Wednesday, 12 October 2016, but will also be welcomed earlier. Consultations with the instructor will then be arranged for all students desiring, or needing, them. All term paper topics must be approved in this way. Although these paper proposal exercises will not be graded, students failing to submit them will not receive a passing grade. Similarly, all required course work must be submitted to be eligible to receive a passing grade. (Students affiliated with the McBurney Center are warmly and strongly encouraged to see the instructor as soon as possible if they are going to need alternate arrangements.)

Finally, for the purposes of this course, all students should use a university e-mail address. The list address for this course is: african405-1-f16@lists.wisc.edu.

C. Grading Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Books:
The following books will be used extensively. In theory, the University Book Store and the reserve reading room of the College Library in Helen C. White Hall should have copies available. They are also all available online from various vendors and many are available as e-books. Please note: it is required that you read these books, not that you buy them.


E. Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

Week 1 — Organization and Introduction  7 September 2016
#Grant Farred, In Motion, At Rest: The Event of the Athletic Body (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014).

Week 2 — The Historical Dimension, 1  14 September 2016

Week 3 — The Historical Dimension, 2  21 September 2016


Week 4 — The International Dimension, 1: FIFA & CAF  28 September 2016

Week 5 — The International Dimension, 2: FIFA & CAF  5 October 2016

Week 6 — Ethnicity, Nationalism, Pan-Africanism, 1  12 October 2016

***1-PAGE PAPER PROPOSALS DUE: WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2016***

*Alegi & Bolsmann, eds., *Africa’s World Cup*, 97-185.

Week 8 — Ethnicity, Nationalism, Pan-Africanism, 2  
26 October 2016


*Farred, Long Distance Love, front matter, 1-59.


Week 9 — The Football Diaspora  
2 November 2016

*Farred, Long Distance Love, 60-187.


#Laurent Dubois, Soccer Empire: The World Cup and the Future of France (Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2010).


Week 10 — Life on the Pitch, 1  
9 November 2016

*Pannenborg, How to Win a Football Match in Cameroon, front matter, 1-103.


Week 11 — Life on the Pitch, 2  
16 November 2016

*Pannenborg, How to Win a Football Match in Cameroon, 103-212.

AFR 405, Soccer as Cultural Practice, Fall 2016


**Week 12 — Analytic Interlude, 2**

***TERM PAPERS DUE WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2016***

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week 13 — Life in the “Stands”**

* Alegi & Bolsmann, eds., *Africa’s World Cup*, front matter, 1-95, 189-234.


**Week 14 — Case Study: South Africa, 1**


**Week 15 — Case Study, South Africa 2**


FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2016, 7:25 p.m. - 9:25 p.m.; LOCATION: T.B.A.

*****