AFRICAN SOCCER AS CULTURAL PRACTICE  
(Version 2.0)

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 metaphoric 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:  
Since I do not dispense Truth, the course will be run as a modified seminar. There will be two class sessions each week and it is expected that students will attend regularly. In some of these I will lecture (usually on Mondays), in others we will discuss and dissect the assigned readings. This format obviously places a burden on the seminar participants to attend regularly, read diligently, and participate actively in class discussions.

To facilitate this participation, each week one student will act as discussion leader. The discussion leader will have two tasks. First, s/he will present a critical, theoretical analysis of the week’s major reading(s). These presentations should be delivered from an outline, not read verbatim, and ought to take from 10 to 15 minutes. Be prepared to field questions from both the instructor and the other seminar participants after your talk. Under no circumstances, however, will any presentation be allotted more than 15 minutes. Second, the discussion leader should use his or her acquired expertise on the subject matter in question to enliven and stimulate our collective deliberations. Part of this latter task will be to suggest questions, or avenues of inquiry, or methodological points the readings raise which might be incorporated into original papers or even masters-level or doctoral research.
Indeed, all students should read with this in mind and come to each class armed with concrete suggestions.

In addition, and also with the aim of facilitating our collective deliberations, all seminar participants must submit one-page reaction papers throughout the semester. Reaction papers should be just that, and no more. They should indicate your reactions to, questions of, and observations about the week’s major required readings. In them you should feel free to raise points of agreement or disagreement you might have with the various authors. The key to this exercise is coming to class prepared with a reaction to some aspect of the week’s readings. These exercises are required, but will not be graded individually. Hard copy should appear in my digital inbox no later than 10:00 a.m. each Wednesday. In addition, at the same time all students should post their papers to the class list via email attachment (african405-1-f16@lists.wisc.edu) so that we all have access to them. No reaction paper is required week one or the week you are a discussion leader.

The only other requirement will be a 25-30 page seminar paper. (If they wish, undergraduates may submit a slightly shorter paper; 20-25 pages.) Note that a draft of that paper will be due on Wednesday, 9 November 2016. The draft may either be a preliminary version of the entire paper or, if you prefer, the draft of a section or two of the final paper. (A minimum of 15 pages will, however, be required at that point.) Please post the paper to the classlist, but also have two hard copies when you come to class — one for the instructor and one for one of the other seminar participants. Each draft essay will thus receive at least two sets of critical, constructive comments before the submission of the final version. Comments will be due the following week, on Wednesday, 16 November 2016. The final paper is due on the last day of class, Wednesday, 14 December 2016 but will, of course, be welcomed earlier should inspiration strike you before then. On the last day students will also present their papers to the seminar as though they were delivering a paper at a professional conference. At the end of the day I hope that all students will see this assignment as an opportunity to begin producing original, publishable work and that the final version of the paper will be a good first draft of a conference paper or an article that might, eventually, be submitted to a professional journal. Students should determine the subject of their seminar paper in consultation with the instructor as early in the semester as possible.

D. Grading Criteria:

- Oral Presentations, discussion papers, & Overall Weekly Class Participation 30%
- Final, Revised Seminar Paper 70%

Incompletes are the bane of graduate students and will be granted only under the most exceptional circumstances.

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.


In the course outline which follows, some readings are required (*); others are recommended (#) for those wishing to pursue a subject further. Required books should be on three-hour reserve in the College Library at Helen C. White Hall. In addition, all required articles may be accessed both through Learn@UW and the following web link: [http://faculty.polisci.wisc.edu/schatzberg/afr405](http://faculty.polisci.wisc.edu/schatzberg/afr405). (Throughout the remainder of this syllabus this will be abbreviated as [web].) Some of the recommended articles may also be accessed through other indicated links or directly through MadCat. You may need to access these from a UW email or web address, but the relevant journal articles should then be accessible. To facilitate easy access, I will send electronic copies of this syllabus (in WordPerfect, Word, Adobe pdf, and html) to the classlist. This syllabus will also be accessible through [web] and Learn@UW.

**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 — Ethnicity, Nationalism, Pan-Africanism**  
5 October 2016


**Week 6 — The Football Diaspora**

*Farred, *Long Distance Love*, entire.


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**Week 7 — Life on the Pitch**


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**Week 8 — Life in the “Stands”**

*Alegi & Bolsmann, eds., *Africa’s World Cup*, entire.


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**Week 9 — Case Study: South Africa**


**Week 10 — Analytic Interlude** 9 November 2016

***DRAFT ESSAYS DUE***

**Week 11 — Critical Comments** 16 November 2016

***CRITICAL COMMENTS ON ESSAYS DUE***

**Week 12 — Writing** 23 November 2016

*The seminar will not meet and students should devote their time to writing their papers.

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Weeks 13 & 14 — Writing**

*The seminar will not meet and students should devote their time to writing their papers.

**Week 15** 14 December 2016

***PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINAL PAPERS***