SOCl 495B Advanced Studies in Sociology (Sociology of Soccer)

Instructor

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Course description

We will explore a range of topics in the sociology of soccer (association football): the origins of the game; spectator identities and the rivalry between Rangers and Celtic fans; hooliganism; sexism, heterosexism, racism and classism in soccer; the celebrity of George Best and David Beckham; pickup soccer; and what makes players or teams successful. We meet Wednesdays 4:00–7:00 pm in IONA Room 301.

Prerequisite

SOCl 100, 101 or 102

Assessment

The final grade will be based on class participation (including weekly reflections), a midterm exam, a group presentation and a final exam

- class participation/reflections (20%)
- midterm exam (30%) on Feb 13
- group presentation (20%) on Mar 27 or Apr 3
- final exam (30%) during the final exam period

Group presentations

Early in the term students will be assigned to groups of two persons each. Each group will deliver a presentation of approximately 15-20 minutes on content that supplements but goes beyond the course materials.

Attendance

Students are expected to regularly attend classes and write exams at the scheduled times. Students who encounter medical, emotional or personal problems that affect their ability to attend classes or write exams should contact Arts Academic Advising. Make-up exams will be scheduled only if Arts Academic Advising formally indicates that this is appropriate. Accommodation for missed reflections also requires a letter from Arts Academic Advising. Students who are unable to write the final exam at the scheduled time should apply to Arts Academic Advising for AEG (aegrotat) or SD (deferred standing); if SD is granted a make-up final exam will be held during the formal SD exam period for the Winter session (typically in late July or early August). UBC accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The university also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments or completing scheduled tests or examinations. A list of religious holidays involving fasting, abstention from work or study or participation in religious activities is available on the UBC website. Students should let the instructor know in advance (in the first two weeks of the course) if they will require accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other commitments should not assume they will be accommodated and should discuss their commitments with the instructor early in the term. Please refer to the UBC Academic Calendar for a more thorough discussion of academic concession.
Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 2): Origins

Week 2 (Jan 9): Identities

Week 3 (Jan 16): Hooligans

Week 4 (Jan 23): Gender

Week 5 (Jan 30): Sexuality

Week 6 (Feb 6): Racism

Week 7 (Feb 13): Midterm exam
Week 8 (Feb 27): Social class

- Pope, Stacey. 2015. 'It’s such a class thing': Rivalry and class distinction between female fans of men’s football and rugby union. *Sociological Research Online* 20, 2, 1-14.

Week 9 (Mar 6): Celebrity


Week 10 (Mar 13): Pickup

- Worby, Eric. 2009. The play of race in a field of urban desire. *Critique of Anthropology* 29, 1, 105-123.

Week 11 (Mar 20): Success


Weeks 12 (Mar 27) & 13 (Apr 3): Presentations