

**University of Florida  
Center for Latin American Studies  
Department of Political Science  
Fall 2024**

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**Politics of Sports in Latin America (LAS 4935/POS4931)**

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the main issues related to the study of sports in Latin America. The literature is interdisciplinary in nature, considering the political, economic, geographic, anthropologic, and linguistic ramifications and concerns. For this reason, class lectures, the readings and research, and our discussions will also mirror the complex and varied composition of this social experience. This course will consider the origins, definitions, and world expansion of sports, stadiums, athletes, and fans.

Course Objectives

Students will debate the common themes of sports in Latin America. Also, students will analyze the contributions from other fields that have tried to understand sports, stadiums, athletes and fans.

About the Syllabus

Based on the composition of the class, our progress discussing these issues, elements beyond our control, and student needs, this syllabus is flexible and may change. Throughout the semester, you will be notified of any changes that might emerge. During the first day of class the professor will read and explain this syllabus at length. It is the student's responsibility to understand the requirements for this class and asking all the appropriate questions about this document to the professor. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalogue.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance>.

Readings

The assigned texts are required and available at the UF Bookstore. It will be our source of discussion and used extensively. In addition, during the course the professor will offer required readings that will be available on our Canvas page identified by a C. This syllabus is a living document, and in case of changes in the readings students will be properly notified.

Class Texts

Sotomayor and Torres (eds) 2020. *Olimpismo*. Little Rock: Arkansas University Press.

Castañeda, Luis . 2014. *Spectacular Mexico*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Elsley, Brenda. 2011. *Citizens and Sportsmen*. Austin: Texas University Press

### Writing Requirements and Grade

The grade will be based on first short paper (25 points), a mid-term examination (20 points), second short paper (25 points), a second examination (20 points), attendance (5 points), participation (5 points).

#### Two Four Page Papers (25 + 25= 50 points)

Students will read one of the books (see above) and address the question offered by the professor. The assignment will rely only on the selected book as a source.

#### Midterm Exam (20 points)

The mid-term will be held during class hours. Blue books will be required, and the student is expected to complete the exam during the exam period.

#### Second Exam (20 points)

The second exam will be due at the end of the semester. The format of the exam will be announced in a timely fashion during the semester.

#### Participation (5 points)

Students are expected to attend and be active components of the class and discussion. It is expected that by the end of the semester all students have participated by offering quality contributions. The rubric for participation will be posted on our Canvas page. If you do not feel comfortable by participating in class, feel free to send me an email with your thoughts to [casuarez@ufl.edu](mailto:casuarez@ufl.edu).

#### Attendance (5 points)

The professor will take attendance either by roll book, canvas, or index card. Students are therefore allowed three absences from days of class without penalty. Any absence after the third one will be penalized by taking three points per missed class. A student who leaves the class before it is over will not be considered as present in terms of attendance. Written evidence will be required to justify absences. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of their number of absences during the semester. If a student has any questions about their attendance on a particular day, this issue should be brought up in writing no later than the following class.

### Grade scale

A	94 and above
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
E	59 and below

The Canvas grade book will be updated as class assignments are graded. Please note that the grade book does not include the grades for Participation and Attendance.

### Concerns with a Grade

In the case that a student disagrees with a grade that concern should be presented in writing. This statement should be handed in writing the next class day after receiving your grade. The merits of the concern will be evaluated taking into consideration how deeply the student is thinking about the subject at hand, and whether the student can provide textual evidence to justify their claim. After careful evaluation, I will notify the student about my decision and adjust the grade accordingly if applicable.

### On Timeliness

Students are expected to turn in their assigned work on time through Canvas, not email. If students are not able to turn in their work on time through Canvas, they will have offer written evidence to justify the tardiness. If said evidence is not produced one letter grade will be deducted per day after due date.

### Academic Honesty

An important component in academic work is recognizing one's work as well as others. During this course, Chat GPT will not be permitted for any work. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not allowed. **Any violations of the academic honesty policy will be vigorously pursued. All students are expected to adhere scrupulously to the University policy concerning academic honesty.** To respect this principle, students are expected to abide by the Academic Honesty Policy. A copy of the Academic Honesty Policy can be found in the following link, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>. It is the student's responsibility to read and understand the policy. The use of ChatGPT or other forms of AI will not be allowed to be used for class assignments. Following these guidelines will assure that original academic work will be recognized and celebrated.

### In Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. Th only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured

by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### Incompletes

Students who have not completed the required class work will only be evaluated by the work that was turned in by the day it was due. Incompletes will only be awarded under exceptional circumstances. Incompletes will be given when students comply with the following conditions, (1) notifying the professor two weeks prior to the last day of class, (2) providing written evidence for the medical condition, or situation that has prompted the student to request an incomplete. The student and professor should agree upon a proper arrangement on how the missing work will be submitted. The student will have the following semester as the time period to complete the missing work; failure to do so will result in an E.

### Accessibility

Testing accommodations and other needs will be addressed for students with proper documentation. Please make sure to inform me of these needs in writing during the first week of class. Retroactive accommodations will not be considered. In case of questions about Disability Resource Center feel free to contact them at <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

### Classroom interaction

Respect is required at all times. Textual evidence is crucial when engaging in intelligent academic debates. Please make use of this tool when elaborating your arguments in the classroom. Refrain from comments that are not related to class discussion. Video or audio recording of the class is not allowed (unless following UF's in class recording policy). Finally, the use of cell phones is prohibited. The topics we discuss in this course may be controversial, and may touch upon deeply held positions or beliefs held by you or your classmates. While I want to encourage open discussion, I also encourage you to consider how your interventions affect others. How we say something is often even more important than what we say; if you are struggling with how to articulate your questions or reactions to the readings please inform the professor.

### Course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

## **I. Introduction**

Review course syllabus and introduction.

## **II. The Origins of Sports in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Reading: Wood, *Sport and Latin American Studies*. C

Reading: Arbena, *Sport and Nationalism in Latin America 1880-1970*. C

Reading: Torres and Campos, *Philosophy of Sport in Latin America*. C

Reading: Júnior, *Assessing the Sociology of Sport*. C

Reading: Osborne, *The Third Central American and Caribbean Olympic Games*. C

**First Paper Topic Distributed (9/12)**

Reading: Pulleiro, *Latin American Structure and Pan American Games*. C

Reading: Arbena, *Meaning and Joy in Latin American Sports*. C

**III. The Olympic Movement in the Caribbean**

Reading: *Olimpismo*, Chapter 4.

Reading: Mitchell, *Journey to Gold*. C

**First Paper Due (9/26)**

Reading: *Olimpismo*, Chapter 2.

Reading: Thomas, *Factors Influencing the Early Development*. C

**Mid Term Exam in Class (10/8)**

Reading: Sotomayor, *Colonial Olympism*. C

Reading: *Olimpismo*, Chapter 7

**III. The Olympic Movement in Latin America**

Reading: Brewster, *Latin America's First Olympics*. C

Reading: Raush, *Latin American participation in the Olympics*. C

**Second Paper Topic Distributed (10/18)**

Reading: Torres, *Tribulations and Achievements*. C

Reading: *Olimpismo*, Chapter 1.

Reading: *Olimpismo*, Chapter 5.

**IV. Professional and Amateur Sports**

Reading: Stoddard, *Caribbean Cricket*. C

**Second Paper Due (11/1)**

Reading: Barron, *The ambiguities of football, politics, culture*. C

Reading: Chirinos, *Football War Honduras and El Salvador*. C

Reading: Snyder, *Exposing Fascism*. C

Reading: Gentil, “*Beautiful Experience*”. C

## **V. Diplomacy**

Reading: Baker, *US Sport Diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean*. C

Reading: Shantz, *Discrimination against Latin American workers*. C

Reading: Parnell, *Sport for development and peace in Latin America and the Caribbean*. C

**Second Exam TBA**