

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
CS 2300: Sport and Recreation in the Ancient World



INSTRUCTOR, Fall Term: Dr. Charles Stocking (cstockin@uwo.ca)

OFFICE: 3207 Lawson Hall

Office Hours, Fall Term: Monday 2:30-3:30 PM or by appointment

INSTRUCTOR, Winter Term: Dr. K. Olson (kolson2@uwo.ca)

OFFICE: Lawson Hall 3227

OFFICE HOURS, Winter Term: Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 PM or by appointment

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM, HSB 40

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. S. Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics* (2004) = **Miller**
2. A. Futrell. *The Roman Games*. (2006). = **Futrell**
3. T. Wiedemann, *Emperors and Gladiators* = **Wiedemann**
4. *Coursepack*. Available from the UWO Bookstore.

EVALUATION: All Exams are Multiple Choice

Midterm 1: 20%

Midterm 2: 30 % (Scheduled by Registrar) – Cumulative for Fall Term

Midterm 3: 20% Non-Cumulative, 1st half of Winter Term

Final Exam: 30% (Scheduled by Registrar) – Cumulative for Winter Term

A grade will **not** be awarded in this class unless **ALL exams** have been completed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, Fall Term: There is no place in modern society where the ancient world has had a greater and more apparent impact than the Olympic Games and modern sports competition. The purpose of this class is to explore the topic of athletics in Ancient Greece and Rome with a view to its cultural and historical specifics, while also considering how the logic of competition in the ancient world relates to modern day practices. The course will rely on archaeology, art, poetry, primary literary sources, and secondary scholarship in order to reconstruct the historical practices and ideologies involved with ancient sports. We will focus on the history of the ancient Olympics, the relationship between ancient and modern sports practices, ancient conceptions of gender and sport, and the role of ancient athletics in the history of the modern Olympic games. By focusing on the history and social significance of sport in the ancient world, students will come to have a better appreciation of the historical and social significance of modern sports practices.

Course Description, Winter Term: Recreation is a concept which is an historical construction, not an historical constant: in other words, recreational activities are not constant through the ages. The sport and leisure activities which any one society indulges in tells us much about that society: the details of ancient recreation therefore tell us about what the ancients felt it meant to be Greek and Roman. There are various types of formal definitions of leisure. If we link leisure to a "freedom from/freedom to" model, then that limits leisure to those at the top of the socioeconomic pile. Is all time spent not working leisure time? Is a leisure activity one that is freely chosen? Psychologically pleasant? Historians in the past have even gone so far as to deny the presence of leisure activities in pre-industrial societies, claiming that the dual concepts of "work" and "leisure" did not exist before the nineteenth century. Sport and recreation were not neutral areas in the ancient world; there was much writing on the use and misuse of free time. Ideas and discourse about sport and leisure were pillars on which many ancients based ideas of selfhood and society, and the concept of leisure could differ according to class.

In the Winter term, this course will examine the various sport, recreational and leisure activities available to people in the ancient Roman world using literary and artistic sources. Topics to be examined include prostitution; Roman gladiatorial combat and other amphitheatrical events; chariot racing; eating and drinking; baths and bathing; gambling; and taverns and bars.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

- have acquired a knowledge of various kinds of ancient Greek and Roman sport and leisure activities
- identify both iconography and subject matter, and be able to visually analyze ancient art which depicts ancient sport and recreational activities
- address the possible symbolism and meaning of content/subject matter in ancient art within its specific and larger social/historical context
- understand the important contribution archaeological evidence makes in examining and reconstructing the history of the sport and recreation of ancient Greece and Rome
- interpret ancient literary sources in translation concerning sport and leisure based on literary, social, and historical contexts.
- understand the ideological role of Ancient Greek and Roman Sport and Recreation on the history of modern sports competition and recreation

LEARNING OUTCOMES/TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

Students completing this course are expected to have acquired:

- an understanding of the importance of historical perspective, and how social norms and customs and the construction of recreational and sport activities is a product of time, events and context
- a developed understanding of the limits of primary evidence as actual historical fact
- an ability to identify the ways in which ancient history is used in modern contexts for various social and ideological purposes

NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

PLAGIARISM: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf [downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> [under the Medical Documentation heading] Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.**

WESTERN ACCESSIBILITY POLICY. Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

WESTERN SUPPORT SERVICES: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

NOTES:

1. Since tests are given in class time, there can be no conflicts. **More than one test on the same day does not constitute a conflict.**
2. Questions will be based on lectures, slides, and other materials used, as well as on the text book and required readings on reserve. Since the reserve readings are in demand, it is suggested that you read and make notes from more than one section at a time. **Failure to complete the required readings before an exam does not constitute a valid reason for postponing that exam.** Plan your schedule ahead of time.
3. Those who miss classes or parts of classes remain responsible for the material they have missed. The instructors and the TAs will not review the contents of lectures or repeat announcements for those who arrive late or miss classes. We are also old-fashioned in that we **DO NOT** post lecture notes, images, or study notes of any kind on Sakai. This makes attendance **essential**, as many of the lectures do not come with readings, and also because the images we show in class are testable.
4. The final grade is calculated on the basis of your performance on the tests and final examination **only**. **You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for a poor performance on a test or the final examination.**
5. **Please know** the words in the Glossaries of the textbooks (Futrell 229-231) and Wiedemann 184-186) **if you run across them in your readings or hear them in the lectures.**

Course Outline, Fall Term:

Sept. 10th

- **Introduction**

Sept 17th- A Religion of the Body in Ancient Greece

- Reading: Hesiod Selections (course website); Spivey -*Coursepack*

Sept. 24th - The Early Poetics of Greek Athletics

- Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* selections -course website
- Pindar Olympian 1 -course website

Oct. 1st - Ancient Olympia

- Readings, Miller 87-95
- Ancient Olympia Readings -*Coursepack*

Oct. 8th– The Events I

- Running Events, Miller 31-46; Running Events –course website
- Heavy Events, Miller 46-60; Heavy Events – course website

Oct. 15th– The Events II

- Pentathlon, Miller 60-75; Pentathlon – course website
- Equestrian Events, Miller 75-82; Equestrian Events- course website

Oct. 22nd– Midterm I

Oct. 29th- Panhellenic Games

- The Olympic Festival, a Reconstruction, Miller 113-138
- Delphi and the Pythian Games, Miller 95-101, Pedley -*Coursepack*

Nov. 5th – Panhellenic Games

- Isthmian Games, Miller 101-105; Isthmian Games – course website
- Nemean Games, Miller 105-112; Nemean Games – course website

Nov. 12th– Hero Athletes and Gymnasion Culture

- Hero Athletes, Miller 160-165; Hero Athletes – course website
- Gymnasion Culture, Miller 176-195

Nov. 19th- Training the Body Politic, Athens and Sparta

- Athenian Athletics– course pack
- Spartan Athletics – course pack

Nov. 26th- Gender, Sex, and Athletics

- Eros and Athletics – *Coursepack*
- Women and Greek Athletics- Miller 150-159, Women and Greek athletics - *Coursepack*

Dec. 3rd – Fall Term Exam Review

Course Outline, Winter Term:

Jan 8

- Introduction: Leisure, *otium* and recreation: definitions/Roman moralists
- **Reading:** Roman history outline/timeline on Sakai

Jan 14

- The Roman amphitheatre I **Reading:** Futrell 52-83
- The Roman amphitheatre II

Jan 21

- Amphitheatre Events I **Reading:** Wiedemann ch. 2, Futrell 84-119
- Amphitheatre Events II **Reading:** Wiedemann ch. 3

Jan 28

- Amphitheatre Events III
- Amphitheatre events IV

Feb 4

- Gladiators and Roman Identity **Reading:** Wiedemann ch.1, Futrell 1-51, 120-59
- Gladiators and Hollywood

Feb 11

- Opposition and Abolition **Reading:** Wiedemann ch. 4, Futrell 186-88
- Chariot-racing I **Reading:** Futrell 189-218, *Coursepack*

Feb 25

- Chariot racing II
- Chariot racing III

Mar 4 IN CLASS EXAM –Midterm 3

Mar 11

- Chariot racing IV
- Athletic activities **Reading:** *Coursepack*

Mar 18

- Prostitutes **Reading:** *Coursepack*
- Toys and board games, ball games

Mar 25

- Gambling **Reading:** *Coursepack*
- Eating and drinking

Apr 1

- The Roman stage I **Reading:** *Coursepack*
- The Roman Stage II

Apr 8

- Baths and bathing **Reading:** *Coursepack*