

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
Classical Studies 2300: *SPORT AND RECREATION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD*
FALL/WINTER 2023-24

Course Time, Location, Instructor, & Teaching Assistants: Posted on OWL

PREREQUISITES: There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Miller, S. *Ancient Greek Athletics* (2004)
- Kyle, D.G. *Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World*, (2nd ed. 2014)
- Miller, S. *Arete: Greek Sports from Ancient Sources* (2004)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this class we will explore athletics and spectacles in Ancient Greece and Rome. We will focus primarily on the ancient Olympics, gladiators, and chariot races, but also such topics as gender and sport, ancient sports medicine, and the business side of athletics and spectacles. In so doing, we will analyze closely the ancient sources closely: archaeology, art, literature, law, business contracts, and more., and secondary scholarship in order to reconstruct the historical practices and ideologies involved with ancient sports.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- understand ancient Greek and Roman athletic and sport activities
- appreciate the role of athletics and spectacles in Greek and Roman society
- identify artistic imagery and subject matter and be able to visually analyze them
- interpret the ancient literary sources
- understand the importance and limitations of archaeological evidence

EVALUATION:

- 10 asynchronous (non-cumulative) quizzes; lowest two dropped 30%
 - Quizzes uploaded on Thursdays; due the following Monday by 11:59 PM
- Midterm 1 (non-cumulative) **synchronous** online exam, Nov 9 @ 7:00 PM 20%
- Midterm 2 (non-cumulative) **synchronous** online exam, Feb 8 @ 7:00 PM 20%
- Final Exam (cumulative) synchronous online exam (as scheduled by the registrar) 30%

All make up exams will be in-person, in the form of a short essay and short answers. They will be held one week after the regular test. There are no makeup quizzes.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

AGA = *Ancient Greek Athletics* textbook

Sport = *Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World*

Sep 11	Lecture 0. Introduction to the Course, The World of Greek Athletics (Readings: AGA 1-19)
18	Lecture 1. Origins and Essences, Late Bronze Age (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 22-50)
25	Lecture 2. Homer (Readings: AGA 20-30); Quiz 1
Oct 2	Lecture 3. Events I & II: Running & Contact Sports (Readings: AGA 31-60)
9	Lecture 4. Events III & IV: Pentathlon & Equestrian (Readings: AGA 60-86); Quiz 2
16	Lecture 5. Panhellenic Games (Readings: AGA 87-112)
23	Lecture 6. The Olympic Games (Readings: AGA 113-128); Quiz 3
30	Fall Reading Week
Nov 9	MIDTERM 1 (Thursday November 9 at 7:00 PM)
13	Lecture 7. Athletics in Archaic Greece (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 70-90)
20	Lecture 8. The Money Games, Sparta (Readings: AGA 129-149); Quiz 4
27	Lecture 9. The Modern Olympics, Women and Athletics (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 91-103, AGA 150-159)
Dec 4	Lecture 10. Athletes and Heroes, Sport and Recreation (Readings: AGA 160-175); Quiz 5
Jan 8	Lecture 11. Athletic Architecture & Education (Readings: AGA 176-195)
15	Lecture 12. Hellenistic Sport, Professionals & Amateurs (Readings: AGA 196-201, 207-215); Quiz 6
22	Lecture 13. Politics and the Games, Athletics and Society (Readings: AGA 216-240)
29	Lecture 14. The Roman Republic and Augustus (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 243-288); Quiz 7
Feb 8	MIDTERM 2 (Thursday February 8 at 7:00 PM)
12	Lecture 15. Chariot-racing, Part I (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 289-298)
19	Reading Week
26	Lecture 16. Chariot-racing, Part II; Quiz 8
Mar 4	Lecture 17. Greek Athletics in the Roman Empire (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 314-323)
11	Lecture 18. Gladiators, Part I (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 298-314); Quiz 9
18	Lecture 19. Gladiators, Part II
25	Lecture 20. Gladiators, Part III; Quiz 10
Apr 1	Lecture 21. Later Sports and Spectacles: Romans and Christians (Readings: <i>Sport</i> 329-347)

COURSE NOTES:

- 1.** You need a working computer and reliable internet connection. I cannot let you redo quizzes or exams because your internet was patchy. Be sure to download and read the pdf “Best Practices for Students Taking Online Exams” available on our course site.
- 2.** All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. You are responsible for checking the course OWL site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.
If you need assistance with OWL site, go to OWL Help page or log a ticket at <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>
- 3.** Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.
- 4.** For questions about course content or technical issues, contact the course TAs.
- 5.** If you are absent for a test, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf
The Student Medical Certificate is available at
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
- 6.** Request for a re-grade must be made within three weeks of the test being handed back.
- 7.** In fairness to all students, there is no extra credit or re-weighting of grades; I do not reply to emails that ask for these. If you have a disability or some other special situation, I urge you to speak to both your student advisor and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD).
- 8.** The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped, so there is no reason to submit a request for accommodation if you have missed a quiz due to illness. You cannot omit a quiz missed due to illness and still drop two other quiz grades.
- 9.** You need to have any accommodations in place BEFORE the first quiz. I cannot let you retake quizzes/exams taking into account accommodations that were not in place when the quiz was posted.
- 10.** I will not restart quizzes for you because you bought the wrong textbook, forgot about the quiz, didn’t listen to the lectures that week, or were unclear which lectures the quizzes were on. Please be organized and stay informed.

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Scantron Review

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Academic Counselling

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education

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/>

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.