CS 2300: Sport and Recreation in the Ancient World

Instructor: Dr. Charles Stocking  
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Office: 3207 Lawson Hall  
Office Hours: Monday 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

Meeting Times for the Course: Mondays, 7:00-8:50PM NS 145

EVALUATION:
ALL EXAMS ARE MULTIPLE CHOICE  
LECTURE SLIDES WILL BE POSTED ON COURSE WEBSITE

Midterm 1: 20% Monday October 21st  
Midterm 2: 30 % (Scheduled by Registrar) – Cumulative for Fall Term  
Midterm 3: 20% Non-Cumulative, 1st half of Winter Term – Feb. 10th  
Final Exam: 30% (Scheduled by Registrar) – Cumulative for Winter Term

TEXTBOOKS:
2. Donald Kyle, Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
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 and spectacle 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 violence of Roman Sport and Spectacle including gladiator combat and chariot races, ancient conceptions of gender and sport, the relationship between ancient and modern sports medicine, and the role of ancient athletics in the history of the modern Olympic games. Since the Olympics will have just occurred in August 2016, there is perhaps no better time to learn about the history of ancient athletics and how it continues to have an impact on the meaning of modern sports competition.
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
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must either complete a Self-Reported Absence Form (provided the conditions for submission are met) or apply to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty and provide documentation. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION CANNOT BE GRANTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR OR DEPARTMENT.

In addition to completing a Self-Reported Absence Form or applying to the Office of the Dean of their home faculty, students seeking academic accommodation must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or Student Medical Certificate, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.
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/](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/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Fall Term:**

Sept. 9th
- Introduction

Sept 16th - **A Religion of the Body in Ancient Greece**
- Reading: Hesiod Selections (course website); Spivey –Course Website

Sept. 23rd - **The Early Poetics of Greek Athletics**
- Kyle, Sport in Homer
- Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey* selections -Course Website
- Pindar Olympian 1 -Course Website

Sept. 30th - **Ancient Olympia**
- Readings, Miller 87-95
- Ancient Olympia Readings –Course Website

Oct. 7th – **The Events I**
- Running Events, Miller 31-46; Running Events –Course Website
- Heavy Events, Miller 46-60; Heavy Events – Course Website

Oct. 14th – **The Events II**
- Pentathlon, Miller 60-75; Pentathlon – course website
- Equestrian Events, Miller 75-82; Equestrian Events- course website

Oct. 21st – **Midterm I**

Oct. 28th - **Panhellenic Games**
- The Olympic Festival, a Reconstruction, Miller 113-138
- Delphi and the Pythian Games, Miller 95-101, Ancient Delphi Readings–Course website
- Isthmian Games, Miller 101-105; Isthmian Games – Course Website
- Nemean Games, Miller 105-112; Nemean Games – Course Website

Nov. 4th- **No Class, Fall Reading Week**

Nov. 11th – **Hero Athletes and Gymnasion Culture**
- Hero Athletes, Miller 160-165; Hero Athletes – Course Website
- Gymnasion Culture, Miller 176-195

**Nov. 18th — Training the Body Politic, Athens and Sparta**
- Athenian Athletics— Kyle, Chapter 8. Athens
- Spartan Athletics – Kyle, Chapter 9, Spartan Sport and Physical Education

**Nov. 25th - Gender, Sex, and Athletics**
- Eros and Athletics – Course Website
- Women and Greek Athletics- Miller 150-159, Women and Greek athletics – Course website

**Dec. 2nd – Fall Term Exam Review**

**Winter Term**

**Jan. 6th – No Class**

**Jan. 13th – Alexander the Great and Athletics in the Hellenistic Era**
- Reading Assignment: Kyle, chapter 12. Macedon and Hellenistic Sport and Spectacle

**Jan. 20th Intro to Roman Sport and Spectacle: Human Violence, Roman Culture**
- Readings: Course Website

**Jan. 27th - Spectacles in the Era of the Republic – Circus, Triumphs, and Beast Hunts**
- Readings: Kyle, Chapter 13. Roman Republic.
- Readings: Course Website

**Feb. 3rd - Gladiators – Early History and Roman Republic; Spartacus**
- Readings, Kyle, Chapter 14, selections
- Readings: Course Website

**Feb. 10th - – Spectacle and the Beginnings of the Roman Empire – Caesar and Augustus**
- Kyle, Chapter 14, Continued.
- Readings, Course Website

**Feb. 17th-No Class, Spring Reading Week.**

**Feb. 14th.- – Winter Midterm**

**Feb. 24th - -The Use and Abuse of Spectacle – Caligula and Nero**
- Kyle, Chapter 15
• Readings, Course Website.

March 2nd - Are you not Entertained? Sport and Spectacle in the Late Empire
• Readings: Kyle, chapter 15 continued
• Movie: Gladiator
• Readings: Course Website

March 9th - Roman Recreation, Ancient Medicine, and Greek Athletics in Rome
• Readings: Course Website

March 16th – Criticism of Ancient Sport and Spectacle and the End of an Era
• Readings, Kyle Chapter 16.
• Readings, Course Website.

March 23rd – Ancient Sport, Spectacle and the Origins of the Olympics and Modern Physical Culture.
• Readings, Course Website

March 30th – Exam Review