

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Western University, Canada
Undergraduate Course Outline
Philosophy 2079F
SPORTS ETHICS

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Mondays 3:30-4:30 and Wednesdays 3:30-5:30, Location: TH 3101

Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2 pm or by appointment

Description

A study of moral issues in sports, including the relative fairness of performance enhancing drugs and techniques, cheating and deception, the role of violence in sports, and the connection between sports and the good life. Questions to be discussed include the following: What is sportsmanship and why is it valuable? What role do athletic pursuits play in the good life? What makes cheating wrong? Should performance enhancing drugs ever be permissible in sport? Why don't men and women compete against each other? When (if ever) should we perform sex tests on athletes? Should disabled athletes using adaptive technology be able to participate in sport at all levels? Do professional athletes deserve their salaries? Should children be allowed to play risky sports? When is government funding for sports justified? Are there any risks too great for athletes to take? What role should sports teams play in university life? What makes someone a good fan?

Requirements:

1. Short Essay, Value: 20 % of final grade
2. Longer Essay, Value: 40 % of final grade or another short essay and a blog post, both worth 20%
3. Final Examination, Value: 40% of final grade

AUDIT Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes. The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal. 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.