

SS 3903 – Spring 2019
Ancient & Medieval Sport History
Mississippi State University
????? Hall
MWF, 11:00- 11:50am

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Office Hours: 12:30-3:00 TR or by appointment

I. Course Description

This course surveys the history of physical activity in ancient & medieval societies. The class will concentrate on three basic areas of physical activity. The course will explore the history of sports, the history of physical education, and the history of ideas and beliefs about physical activity and human nature. The course will focus on the history of sport in ancient Greece, Rome, and medieval Europe, but will also briefly cover non-Western cultures.

II. Course Objectives

In completing this course you should:

1. Recognize and appreciate the fundamentally historical character of reality. All human beings literally are – in part – their ancestors. This is true both biologically and culturally.
2. Master basic terminology in ancient sport. (e.g. What is the *circus maximus*? What is *arete*? What is *dualism*, *materialism*, and *holism*?)
3. Master basic historical facts regarding sport in ancient societies. (e.g. Why was sport so important to the Greeks? When did the ancient Olympics begin? How does Roman sport differ from Greek sport, what innovations did the Romans bring to sport? How did the answers to the question “what is a human being?” change from ancient Greece to medieval Europe? How did it stay the same, etc.?)
4. Begin to appreciate the foreign/familiar dichotomy. All cultures are fundamentally human, so we will recognize much in the past. As such ancient cultures are familiar. However ancient cultures are also very different from our own (The Greek ran naked, had no conception of amateurism, etc.). As such ancient cultures are foreign.

5. Begin to evaluate ancient cultures and sporting practices in pursuit of answers to two basic questions. 1. In what ways was ancient sport inferior to modern sport? 2. In what ways is ancient sport superior to modern sport; that is, what can we learn from the past?

III. **Required Texts**

Miller, S. (2006). *Ancient Greek Athletics*. New York: Yale University Press.

Miller, S. (2004). *Arete: Greek Sports from Ancient Sources*. Berkeley & Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.

Various readings provided by instructor/library.

IV. **Educational Philosophy**

Learning is a challenging and frequently uncomfortable process. All education is in the final analysis self-education. In the learning process teachers serve as an expert guide and mentor in what must be a self-motivated quest by each individual student to acquire knowledge and insight. In order to profit from the learning possibilities provided in this course, students need to attend class regularly, complete on schedule all of the readings and assignments, and participate fully in the learning process. Such a commitment is one of the minimum basic requirements for successfully completing the course. You are responsible for your own education. At best, professors serve as guides to help you find your way through the complexities and confusion which mark the paths toward truth. In this course the burden of learning will be placed squarely on your shoulders—as it is in any effective course.

V. **Disabilities**

Appropriate accommodations will be made for documented disabilities. Students who need academic accommodations based on a disability should visit the Office of Student Support Services, 01 Montgomery Hall, call 662-325-3335, or visit the website at: www.sss.msstate.edu.

Title IX

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU's educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU's Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available at: <http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/>

VI. Classroom Policies

A structured classroom environment enhances the learning process. Therefore:

1. No behaviors that disrupt the learning environment will be tolerated.
2. Private conversations are not permitted.
3. Habitual tardiness is not permitted.
4. Leaving class during the lectures or discussions is not appropriate.
5. "Preparing" to leave class before the lecture is over is not appropriate.
6. The reading of newspapers or materials from this or any other courses during class is not permitted.
7. Cellular phones, text messengers, pagers and all other disruptive devices are not permitted to be in use during class and should be turned off. Consistent violators of this policy will be dismissed from the course.
8. The professor's class attendance policy is no different from that of the University. Each student is responsible for the work conducted in class.
9. Curves or other means of artificially adjusting grades will not be used. Each student will receive the grade earned.
10. Extra credit work is not an option. Those having trouble with the regular work do not need extra work. They need to improve their performance on regular work.
11. Make-up examinations are given only in accordance with the stated policy in this syllabus.
12. Permission from the professor is required to use recording devices during the course.
13. Students should adhere to the behaviors expected in a "professional culture."
14. Any behaviors which the professor deems disruptive to the learning environment will be grounds for dismissal from the course.

15. Full compliance with Mississippi State University's academic integrity policy is required. Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Violation of Mississippi State's academic integrity policy can lead to automatic failure of the course, as well as additional discipline from the university (See "Student Honor Code" below).

VII. Student Honor Code

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows: "As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: <http://honorcode.msstate.edu/policy>

VIII. Attendance Policy and Make-Up Examinations

Copious empirical data and a host of studies reveal that attendance matters in terms of both learning outcomes and in the procurement of grades. With that warning in mind, students should know that no additional penalties will be applied to those who fail to attend. In other words, you will not be marked down based on attendance. However, experience **strongly suggests** that failure to attend the course creates negative academic outcomes. In other words, students who do not attend class generally do not pass the class.

In accordance with university policies in regards to officially excused absences, students who have university-excused absences may make arrangements with the professor to take an examination **early**. In all other cases make-ups will be essay and/or other format examinations (the format will be determined at the instructor's discretion). There are no make-ups for daily reading quizzes. Those who contact the instructor with a university-excused absence may be excused from the daily reading quiz.

IX. Daily Reading Quizzes

In order to create lively and informed discussions and to make sure that you keep up with the assigned readings, you will be given regular "DAILY READING QUIZZES." The quizzes will cover the assigned readings (as outlined in the course calendar) and will be administered during class. Twenty quizzes will be offered during the semester. Your top 18 quizzes will count toward your grade. As a bonus to any student who takes all twenty quizzes—and all of you

should—the professor will count the best fourteen quizzes for those students who take each and every quiz. **Quizzes will start promptly at 11:00. Students who are late to class (not in class before I am finished handing out the quizzes) will not be allowed to take the quiz.**

Students who leave class (and do not return) after taking the quiz will receive a zero on the quiz and will not receive credit for taking it. That is, it will count as a missed quiz.

X. Discussions

Opportunity for discussion will be a regular aspect of the course. Discussion provides students with an opportunity to converse with the professor about the readings and lectures. Discussion will be organized around the reading assignments outlined in the course calendar. Discussions are a crucial part of the learning process and one in which the effort of students to comprehend the material and share ideas is paramount. Do not expect the professor to lecture to you during these periods. Instead, expect the professor to facilitate your understanding of the material through intensive and directed discourse. You must have read the material in order to participate in the discussion. Failure to keep up with the assigned material will result in failure in the course.

XI. Article Critique

You will be assigned one article related to ancient sport history from an *academic journal*. The expected format for the article critiques will include stating the author's thesis, outlining (literally) the argument of the paper, as well as pointing out strengths and/or weaknesses in the author's argument. In other words, you will identify the purpose of the article, show you understand what arguments were made, and then evaluate those arguments. You will be shown an example in class before the first critique is due. We will have three format/drafting assignments to help you practice for the final draft as part of the class. Your drafting and practice work in this regard will account for five percent of your course grade. Each of the three assignments will count equally towards that five percent. Typically, a sound article critique's final draft will be between 5-7 pages long.

XII. Bonus for Outstanding Participation

If, in the opinion of the professor, your participation in the course is excellent and if your final score is near the borderline (generally within one percentage point) of a higher grade, you might find your course grade adjusted upward.

XIII. Examinations

Five examinations will be administered during the semester. Examinations will consist of multiple choice and T/F questions. Examinations will cover both the readings and lecture material.

First Examination- January 28 (9%)

Second Examination- February 18 (9%)

Third Examination- March 25 (9%)

Fourth Examination- April 8 (9%)

Fifth Examination- April 24 (9%)

Final Examination-TBD, ???? am.

The final examination is comprehensive.

XIV. Grading Weights and Scale

Weights

Daily Reading Quizzes-----20%

Exams 1-5 -----45%

Final Exam-----15%

Drafting Assignments 5%

Article Critique 15%

Scale

90% and above-----A

80-89%-----B

70-79%-----C

60-69%-----D

59% and below-----F

XV. Course Outline

January

7 Review Syllabus; Introductions.

9 Lecture 1: Physical Culture, prehistoric & pre Greek sport.

11 Quiz #1: Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapters 1&2.
Lecture 2: Why Sport History; Origins of Greek Athletics.

14 Quiz #2: Miller, *Arete*, Selections from Homer.
Lecture 3: The Greek Polis and Greek Society.

- 16 Quiz #3: Selections from Plato & Aristotle.
Lecture 4: Ancient Greek conceptions of the human being.
- 18 Quiz #4: Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapters 3&4.
Lecture 5: The Ancient Crown Games.
- 21 **MLK Day (No Class)**
- 23 Quiz #5: Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapters 6&7.
Lecture 6: The Ancient Olympics.
- 25 Quiz #6: Miller, *Arete*, The Events of a Competition.
Lecture 7: The Ancient Olympics cont.
- 28 Test #1
- 30 [Article Critique format. Examination/discussion of practice article.](#)

February

- 1 Film on Ancient Olympics.
- 4 Quiz #7: Donald G. Kyle, 'The Only Woman in All Greece';
Finish Film on Ancient Olympics
- 6 Quiz #8: Miller, *Arete*, Women in Athletics, Heroes, Ball Playing.
Lecture 7: Women, Heroes, Recreation.
(Read *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapters 8-10)
- 8 Project: Truth, interpretation and the limitations of historical sources.
(Female athletes and media coverage).
- 11 Quiz #9: Mandell, "Greece," chapter 3 in *Sport: A Cultural History*;
Lecture 8: Greek Training & Training Facilities.
Read *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapter 11.
- 13 Quiz #10: Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapter 12.
Lecture 9: Sport as Entertainment & The Spread of Greek Athletics.
Read *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapter 12; *Arete* Chapters 11-12.
- 15 Quiz #11: Young, "The Modern Origins of Amateurism".
Lecture 10: Professionals & Amateurs in Ancient Greece.
Read *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapter 13.

18 Test #2

20 [APA citations & purpose paragraph. Samples. Try to cite and identify purpose of the the assigned article. Review Drafting Assignment #1.](#)

22 Lecture 11: Politics in Ancient Greek (and Modern) Sport.
Read *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapter 14.

25 Quiz #12: Kitroeff, "Greece's Olympics";
Lecture 12: Athletics and Society, Athletics as Arete.
Read *Ancient Greek Athletics*, Chapters 15-16.
(Drafting Assignment #1 Due)

27 Lecture 13: Ancient Roman Culture and Society.

March

1 Film: *Ancient Discoveries*, Galen and the Roman Gladiators.

4 Quiz #13: *Ancient Discoveries*, Galen and the Roman Gladiators;
Discussion of Film; Lecture 14: Ancient Roman Technology & Medicine.

6 Quiz #14: Donald Kyle, "Hunts and Homicides as Spectacles of Death"
Lecture 15: Ancient Roman Sport (The Colosseum & Gladiators).

8 Quiz #15: Matthews, "Chariot Racing".
Lecture 16: Ancient Roman Sport (The Circus Maximus and other recreations).

11-15 Spring Break.

18 Film: *Colosseum: Rome's Arena of Death*

20 Project: Roman Sport and the NFL.

22 Discussion of article critique article: Heather Reid, JPS, "Were the Roman Gladiators Athletes?"

25 Test #3

27 [Review Common APA/Purpose errors. Practice outlining chunk with samples. Review drafting assignment #2.](#)

29 Quiz #16: Selections from the *Tao Te Ching*.

Lecture 17: Non-Western Cultures (Asia & the Middle East)

April

- 1 Lecture 18: Non-Western Cultures (Africa & the Americas)
(Drafting Assignment #2 Due).
- 3 Quiz #17: Selections from Augustine & Aquinas.
Lecture 19: Medieval Understandings of the Human Person (Aquinas and Augustine)
- 5 Quiz #18: Carter, "Sports, Recreations, and War in Feudal Europe";
Lecture 20: Medieval Sport (A culture of play?)
- 8 Test #4
- 10 Review common outlining problems. Practice critiquing an article with samples. Review Drafting Assignment #3).**
- 12 Quiz #19: Allen Guttman, "Sports Spectators from Antiquity ...";
Lecture 21: Renaissance and Reformation (Luther, Calvin, humanism, etc.)
- 15 Quiz #20: Guttman, "From Ritual to Record";
Lecture 22: Renaissance and Reformation (The New World)
(Drafting Assignment #3 Due)
- 17 Lecture 23: The Birth of Modernity; (Cartesianism and the Scientific Revolution).
- 19 Lecture 24: From Ancient to Modern: Why Sport History Matters.
- 22 Review common "critique errors"; Peer review of rough drafts.**
- 24 Test #5
Article critique Final Draft Due
- 26 Review Test; Final Exam Review, Course Evaluations.

XV. Reading Assignments Bibliography

Should unforeseen circumstances arise, the professor reserves the right to make any necessary adjustments to "The Reading Assignments and Examination Schedule." Students will be informed in a timely manner of any changes.

- Quiz 1: Chapters 1 & 2 from Miller, S. *Ancient Greek Athletics*. (New York: Yale University Press, 2006).
- Quiz 2: Homer, selections from the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, in Miller, S. ed., *Arete: Greek Sports From Ancient Sources*, 2nd ed. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), pp. 1-16.
- Quiz 3: Aristotle. *On The Soul*. (J. Sachs, Trans.) (Santa Fe: Green Lion Press, 2004), pp. 81-88.
- Quiz 4: Chapters 3 & 4 from Miller, S. *Ancient Greek Athletics*. (New York: Yale University Press, 2006).
- Quiz 5: Chapters 6 & 7 from Miller, S. *Ancient Greek Athletics*. (New York: Yale University Press, 2006).
- Quiz 6: "The Events in Competition" in Miller, S. ed., *Arete: Greek Sports From Ancient Sources*, 2nd ed. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), pp. 21-62.
- Quiz 7: Kyle, D. "'The Only Woman in All Greece,' Kyniska, Agelsilaus, Alcibiades and Olympia," *Journal of Sport History* 30 (Summer 2003): 183-191.
- Quiz 8: "Women...Heroes...Ball Playing" in Miller, S. ed., *Arete: Greek Sports From Ancient Sources*, 2nd ed. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), pp. 99-115.
- Quiz 9: Mandell, R. "Greece," chapter 3 in *Sport: A Cultural History* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), pp. 37-67.
- Quiz 10: Chapter 12 from Miller, S. *Ancient Greek Athletics*. (New York: Yale University Press, 2006).
- Quiz 11: Young, D. "The Modern Origins of Amateurism," chapter 2 in *The Olympic Myth of Greek Amateur Athletics* (Chicago, IL: Ares Publishers, 1984), pp. 15-28.

- Quiz 12: Kitroeff, A. "Greece's Olympics," chapter 1 in *Wrestling with the Ancients* (New York: Greekworks.com, 2004), pp. 5-25.
- Quiz 13: Film: *Ancient Discoveries*, Galen and the Roman Gladiators.
- Quiz 14: Kyle, D. "Hunts and Homicides As Spectacles of Death," in *Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome* (London: Routledge, 1998) , pp. 263-271.
- Quiz 15: Matthews R. "Chariot Racing," in *The Age of the Gladiators: Savagery & Spectacle in Ancient Rome* (London: Arcturus, 2003), pp. 129-138.
- Quiz 16: Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, (G. Feng & J. English Trans.), (New York: Vintage Books, 1989).
- Quiz 17: Augustine, St. *The City of God*. (G. G. Walsh, D. B. Zema, G. Monahan, & D. J. Honan, Trans.) (New York, NY: Bantam Doubleday, 1958), pp. 295-304. & Aquinas, St. Thomas. *Aquinas's Shorter Summa*. (C. V. S.J., Trans.) (Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute Press), pp. 169-180; 229-230.
- Quiz 18: Carter, J.M. "Sports, Recreations, and War in Feudal Europe," in *Medieval Games: Sports and Recreations in Feudal Society* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1992), pp. 29-37.
- Quiz 19: Guttman, A. "Sports Spectators from Antiquity to the Renaissance," *Journal of Sport History* 8 (Summer 1981): pp. 5-27.
- Quiz 20: Guttman, A. "From Ritual to Record," chapter 2 in *From Ritual To Record: The Nature of Modern Sports* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1978), pp. 15-55.

Bibliography

- Aquinas, St. (2002). *Aquinas's Shorter Summa*. (C. V. S.J., Trans.) Manchester, NH: Sophia Institute Press.
- Aristotle. (2002). *Nicomachean Ethics*. (J. Sachs, Trans.) Newburyport, MA: Focus Publishing.
- Aristotle. (2004). *On The Soul*. (J. Sachs, Trans.) Santa Fe: Green Lion Press.
- Aristotle. (1981). *Politics*. (T. Sinclair, & T. J. Saunders, Trans.) New York: Penguin Books.
- Augustine, St. (1991). *Confessions*. (H. Chadwick, Trans.) New York: Oxford University Press.
- Augustine, St. (1958). *The City of God*. (G. G. Walsh, D. B. Zema, G. Monahan, & D. J. Honan, Trans.) New York, NY: Bantam Doubleday.
- Baker, W. J. (1982). *Sports in the Western World* (Revised ed.). Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
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- Miller, S. (2004). *Ancient Greek Athletics*. New York: Yale University Press.
- Miller, S. (1991). *Arete: Greek Sports from Ancient Sources*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Plato. (2002). *Five Dialogues*. (G. Grube, Trans.) Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.
- Struna, N. (1996). *People of Prowess: Sport, Leisure, and Labor in Early Anglo-America*. Urbana and Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press.
- Young, D. C. (1984). *The Olympics Myth of Greek Amateur Athletics*. Chicago, IL: Ares Publishers.