

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

PRLS 612-Philosophy of Leisure and Sport
Fall 2011

DAY/TIME:	M 7:20 – 10:00pm	LOCATION:	RAC #2203
PROFESSOR:	David Wiggins	EMAIL ADDRESS:	dwiggin1@gmu.edu
Guest Lectures:	Professor Verner Moeller	EMAIL ADDRESS:	vm@sport.au.dk
OFFICE LOCATION:	Bull Run Hall 221	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-2057
OFFICE HOURS:	By appt.	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or permission of instructor

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates philosophical issues in leisure and sport with the purpose to unearth the ideological basis for the general attitude and assessment of various phenomena in sport in the American society. Utilizing a case studies approach to fair play cheating, doping drug- and risk taking in sport the course's primary intent is to gain an understanding of the connection between ethics and body cultural praxis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dilemmas in sport and leisure praxis.
2. Demonstrate how various taken for granted values works as incentives for immoral behavior.
3. Formulate a coherent body of arguments for or against a position in relation to controversial sports phenomena.
4. Present the relationship between a controversial sport phenomenon and broader developments in American and global societies.
5. Analyze body cultural phenomenon with regard to its embedment in western thought.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Secondary readings, lectures, and discussions will be utilized in relation to develop a toolbox for producing compulsory dissertations on topics of your choice within the broad field of the philosophy of sport.

REQUIRED READINGS

Morgan, W.J. (2007). *Ethics in Sport*. Campaign IL: Human Kinetics.
Møller, V. (2010). *The Ethics of Doping and Anti-doping – Redeeming the Soul of Sport?* London: Routledge.
Møller, V. (2011). *The Scapegoat – About the Expulsion of Michael Rasmussen from the Tour de France 2007 and beyond*. Copenhagen: People's Press
McNamee, M. (2007) *Philosophy, Risk and Adventure Sports* London: Routledge

EVALUATION

Requirements	Points
Research Paper	50
Exam	40
Ethics Assignment	<u>10</u>

TOTAL	100
Grading Scale	

A+ = 97 – 100	B+ = 88 – 89	C = 70 – 79
A = 93 – 96	B = 83 – 87	F = 0 – 69
A- = 90 – 92	B- = 80 – 82	

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE		TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
	August 29	Syllabus and Requirements (E-Class)	
M	September 5	No Class: Labor Day	
M	September 12	What are we talking about when we talk about problems in sport?	Introductory Lecture Møller 2010 pp 4-31
M	September 19	Cleaning up sport: Does the end justify the means?	Møller 2011 pp 7-152
M	September 26	The quest for fair play. Who guard the guardians?	Møller 2011 pp 153-276
M	October 3	How to get sport right?	Møller 2010 pp 90-144
T	October 11	The moral problem of risk-behavior	McNamee 2007 pp 1-23 and 168-185
M	October 17	Exam Preparation	Review
M	October 24	Exam	
M	October 31	Ethics and Sport Assignment	Morgan text
M	November 7	Ethics and Sport Assignment	Morgan text
M/ T	November	Attend Sport and Global South Conference Nov 14-15	
M	November 21	Work on Research Projects	
M	December 5	Research Projects Due	Research project submission
M	December 12	Exam	

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].



- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism, please visit our website [See <http://rht.gmu.edu>].