

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism

PRLS 612 – Philosophy of Leisure and Sport (3)
Fall 2012

DAY/TIME:	M 7:20 – 10:00pm	LOCATION:	
PROFESSOR:	Professor John Nauright	EMAIL ADDRESS:	jnaurigh@gmu.edu
OFFICE LOCATION:	Robinson B335	PHONE NUMBER:	703-993-2061
OFFICE HOURS:	W 10-1; or by appt.	FAX NUMBER:	703-993-2025

PREREQUISITE: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Investigates the phenomenon of leisure and sport from a philosophical perspective. Utilizes the philosophical approach to better explain the role that leisure and sport play in American society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of philosophy in leisure and sport.
2. Demonstrate how philosophical issues effect policy and planning in leisure and sport.
3. Formulate interrelationships between philosophical and ethical issues and the practice of leisure and sport.
4. Present the relationship of the above-mentioned phenomenon with broader developments in American and global societies.
5. Justify the relationship between mind and body in western thought and the implications of that relationship to leisure and sport.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Secondary readings, lectures, and discussions will be utilized to investigate philosophical issues in leisure and sport. Utilizing a case study approach to fair play, cheating, doping drug- and risk taking, youth sport development, and access to leisure time and space the course's primary intent is to gain an understanding of the connection between ethics and body cultural praxis to understand better rationales for leisure and sport in American and global society.

REQUIRED READINGS

Hyman, M. (2010). *Until It Hurts: America's Obsession with Youth Sports*. Boston: Beacon.
Møller, V. (2010). *The Ethics of Doping and Anti-Doping: Redeeming the Soul of Sport?*. London: Routledge.
Møller, V. & Nauright, J. eds. (2003). *The Essence of Sport*. Odense: University of Southern Denmark Press (copies available from Dr Nauright).
Morgan, W. (2006). *Why Sports Morally Matter*. London: Routledge.
Spracklen, K. (2011). *Constructing Leisure: Historical and Philisophical Debates*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Other readings as assigned available via GMU Libraries.

EVALUATION

This course will be graded on a point system.

Requirements	Points
Mid-Term Exam	20
Research Paper and Presentation	35
Final Exam	25
Participation and Discussion Presentations	<u>20</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	27	Syllabus, Requirements and Overview	
M	September	10	Philosophy, Leisure and Sport in the Past	Spracklen, pp. 1-120
M	September	17	Philosophy, Leisure and Sport Early Modern to Modernity	Spracklen, pp. 121-198
W	September	26	From Leisure to Sport: What is the Essence of Sport? (combined class with SRST 606)	<i>Essence of Sport</i>
M	October	1	Do Sports Morally Matter?	Morgan, pp. 1-94
T	October	9	Philosophy and Ethics: Contributing to Leisure and Sports in Practice?	Morgan, pp. 95-213
M	October	15	Mid-Term Exam	
M	October	22	Focus Area 1: Human Rights, Leisure and Sport	Assigned article readings
M	October	29	Focus Area 1: Human Rights, Leisure and Sport	Assigned article readings
M	November	5	Focus Area 2: Doping and Anti-Doping in Sport <i>Doping for Gold</i> (video material)	Møller, pp 1-68
M	November	12	Sport and the Global South Conference (12-14)	Attend a conference session
M	November	19	Focus Area 2: Doping and Anti-Doping in Sport	Møller, pp. 69-144
M	November	26	Focus Area 3: Ethics and Youth Sport	Hyman text
M	December	3	Research Projects Due	Research project presentation
W	December	17	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 [<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>].
- Core Values - The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>