

PHIL 215/315 & HIST 215/315
Ethics and Athletics in Ancient Greece and Rome

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Spring Semester 2013
M-W 2:00-4:00 PM 4.0 Credits
Office hrs: MTWF 9:30–10:30; 12:45-1:45 and by appt.

Description: This course examines the relationship among athletics, politics, and moral philosophy in ancient Greece and Rome with a focus on the connections between athleticism, virtue, and social class. It covers the history and politics of sport from Egypt and Mesopotamia through the Roman Empire and considers the philosophical thought of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Lucretius, Seneca, and Aurelius. Throughout, ancient observations are linked with contemporary issues such as the use of athletes as role models, the relationship between money and corruption, the relative worth of participation and spectatorship, and the role of females in sport. If possible, the theories studied will be applied through service projects involving youth sports. Students taking the course at the 300 level will have additional writing, presentation, and class leadership responsibilities involving external research.

Grading Scale (out of 1000 points possible)

A=930; A-=900; B+=870; B=830; B-=800; C+=770; C=730; C-=700; D+=670; D=630; D-=600; F=<600

Coursework: All papers must be turned in electronically as specified on the syllabus. Papers and drafts lose one grade step (e.g. B+ = B) for each day late.

Required Text: Reid, Heather. *Ethics and Athletics in the Ancient World: Contests of Virtue*. London and New York: Routledge, 2011). This and a sourcebook of supplemental texts will be posted on the course website.

Requirements and Grading (200-level students: Demi, Emily, Caleb, Kelsey, Sara, Allie, Corina)

Regular Assignments 10%: Quizzes, peer-reviews, etc.: 15 opportunities, 10 points each; top 10 count.

Tests 45%: Three in regular tests over course material @100 points each; Final exam worth 150 points.

Oral Presentations: 5% - oral report on sports in Rome to be delivered on-site – 50 points

Writing Assignment 15% Sport and Culture Reflection Essays – 3 x 50 points each.

Reflection essay #1 (2-3 pages): The purpose of this essay is to articulate your personal understanding the purpose of sport before studying the course material. What do you think the proper role of sport is in our society today? What is the relationship between ethics and athletics? Would you say that sport is better linked with aristocracy or democracy? Should sport play a role in education? Should sport be as a political tool? Your essay should have a clear introduction and thesis, focused body paragraphs, and examples and evidence from your own experience. Please do not consult outside sources, including the assigned text, in writing this paper.

Service Learning Assignments 25%

- Community Sports Service Activities (with reflective essays, group or individual) 50 pts each – 100 pts total
- Games of Zeus Eleutherios project outline and assessment (group project) – 150 points

Requirements and Grading (300-level students: Maria, Austin)

Regular Assignments 10%: Quizzes, peer-reviews, etc.: 15 opportunities, 10 points each; top 10 count.

Tests 15% 300 level students are exempt from section tests (but not from quizzes or the final exam)

Oral Presentations: 20%

- oral report on sports in Rome to be delivered on-site – 50 points
- class leadership session – 50 points
- formal presentation of research paper at Palmer Symposium April 17 – 100 points

Service Learning Assignments 25%

- Community Sports Service Activities (with reflective essays, group or individual) 50 pts each – 100 pts total
- Games of Zeus Eleutherios project outline and assessment (group project) – 150 points

Individual Research Paper 30%

- **Proposal:** includes topic, tentative thesis, research plan, 25 points
- **Outline and Bibliography** – outline with quote and annotated bibliography, 25 points
- **Complete Draft:** (10 page minimum) to be discussed in conference with the professor
- **Final Draft:** 10-15 pages, graded on understanding, argument, evidence, 250 points

Writing Quality Policy: Papers containing 5 or more grammatical errors on any page will be returned for immediate rewriting. Failure to do so may result in late penalties or a reduction in grade.

Class Schedule Spring 2013 (tentative)			
Date	Topic/Activity	Reading Assignment	Work Due
T 1/15-1/17	Visit to Rome	--	Oral Reports
M 1/21	Course Overview		--
W 1/23	Learning from ancient sport	Reid, Introduction	Reflection Essay #1 <i>Research Paper Topic (300)</i>
Section 1: Athleticism and Aretē: From Aristocracy to Democracy			
M 1/28	Athletic Heroes	Reid, Chapter 1	RA #1 Quiz
W 1/30	Athletics and Ethics in Homer	<i>Iliad</i> 23.257-897 (SB 211-225)	RA #2 (discussion board)
M 2/4	Ancient Olympia	Reid, Chapter 2	RA #3 Quiz, SL Proposal #1
W 2/6	Foundation Myths of Olympia	(SB 42-49 & 229-238)	RA #4
M 2/11	Boxing with Tyrants	Reid, Chapter 3	RA #4 Quiz
W/13	Wealth v. <i>Aretē</i> : The case of Kyniska	(SB 76, 79, 193, 269)	Test #1 <i>Research Paper Proposal</i>
Section 2: Sport as Training for Virtue in Classical Greek Philosophy			
M 2/19	Wrestling with Socrates	Reid, Chapter 4	RA #5 Quiz
W 2/20	Plato's Gymnasium	Reid, Chapter 5	RA #6 Quiz, Reflection Essay #2
M 2/25	No Class, Spring Break		
W 2/27	The Academy as a Gymnasium	(SB 138-149)	RA #7, SL Report #1
M 3/4	Aristotle's Pentathlete	Reid, Chapter 6	RA #9 Quiz, SL Proposal #2
W 3/6	Females and Athletics	(SB 53-56 & 182-183)	Test #2 <i>Outline and Bibliography</i>
Section 3: Learning from Watching Ancient Roman Spectacles			
M 3/11	The Epicurean Spectator	Reid, Chapter 7	RA #10 Quiz
W 3/13	Sport in Ancient Rome	tba	RA #11
M 3/18	Seneca's Gladiators	Reid, Chapter 8	RA #12 Quiz
W 3/20	Gladiators vs. Football Players	Reid "Heroes of the Coliseum"	Palmer Proposals Due
M 3/25	The Circus and the Cosmopolis	Reid, Chapter 9	RA #13 Quiz, SL Report #2
W 3/27	Chariot Racing	tba	Test #3 <i>Complete Draft Due</i>
M 4/1	No Class: Easter Monday		
W 4/3	Games Preparation		
S 4/6	Service Activity: Revived Games of Zeus Eleutherios – Temple of Zeus		
M 4/8	Implications for Modern Sport	Reid, Conclusion	Reflection Essay #3 <i>Final Draft Due</i>
W 4/10	Assessment Activities		<i>Final Exam</i>
W 4/17	Palmer Research Symposium (300 level formal presentations)		