

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

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| Course Code: ENGL*2280 | Course Title: Sporting Bodies | Date of Offering: W24 |
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| Course Instructor: Julie Cairnie | Course Format: Lecture |
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Brief Course Synopsis:

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines various aspects of sports and play as they are manifested in a range of literary texts and other cultural forms. Because the emergence of sport as a social practice has been so intertwined with notions of regulation, performance, and fandom, sporting culture offers a valuable site for looking at questions of identity and social relations more broadly. For example, there is ample evidence that texts pertaining to exercise and sport played a palpable role in the construction of gender, race, and class. Furthermore, the introduction/imposition of sport (soccer, football, hockey, running, boxing, cycling, baseball, hunting) in colonial settings generated important new avenues both for disciplining populations and for resisting colonial domination. Depending on the particular historical archive chosen there may be a theoretical focus on gender, critical race, and/or whiteness studies. A wide range of texts may be included: novels, poetry, plays, films, sport performances and broadcasting, sport print journalism, blogging and vlogging, as well as memoir.

SECTION DESCRIPTION

The focus of "Sporting Bodies" is "Decolonization and/of Sport." The course begins with an understanding that 'our' relationship to sport is complex and contradictory: pleasure and pain, the body's possibilities and its limitations, inclusion and exclusion, etc. The course is concerned with the ways in which sport is utilized in the service of capitalism, colonialism, and practices that harm and exclude people who have bodies that don't matter. We look at the ways in which sport is implicated in problematic histories and practices, and then think through the ways in which it has potential to reimagine relationships – between humans, to the land, and to non-humans. The content will be mostly from Canada, although we will discuss other contexts too. A range of sports and bodily practices/movements will be considered.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Book Reviews (two @20%) 40%
Midterm Test 20%
Discussion Questions (weekly) 20%
Final Test 20%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
MANY RESOURCES WILL BE POSTED/LINKED ON COURSELINK

TEXTS TO PURCHASE:

Noe Alvarez, *Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America's Stolen Land*
Clara Hughes, *Open Heart, Open Mind*

NOTE: THE COURSE MATERIAL MAY CHANGE – PLEASE CONFIRM WITH THE INSTRUCTOR BEFORE PURCHASING ANY TEXT[S]

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:
20th/21st Century

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):
Lectures will be delivered face-to-face.

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.