PHILOSOPHY OF SPORT PHIL 294 DFA

FALL 2010 MERCY COLLEGE DR. KILPATRICK

Course Description

What is the nature and purpose of sport? Why and how should one play? These and other issues will be explored in this course which will combine the critical observation of live sporting events with classroom discussion, taking both cognitive and affective approaches to the philosophy of sport. Through the introduction to foundational texts in the discipline and critical observation of sporting activities (individual and team competitions; amateur and professional), the major branches of philosophy (metaphysics, aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, logic) will be identified and explored in depth.

Objectives

- 1) To develop critical thinking skills;
- 2) To seek/find answers to philosophical questions;
- 3) To develop personal opinions on issues of sport;
- 4) To form a personal philosophy of sport.

Enabling Activities

- 1) Classroom discussion (no more than three absences permitted);
- 2) Observation of competitive sport:
- 3) Individual and group presentations on key issues of sport (one each);
- 4) Five 3-5 page philosophical essays on assigned topics.

Outcomes

- 1) To relate the value of sport to the self and society;
- 2) To present reasoned arguments:
- 3) To formulate informed philosophical opinions on issues of sport.

Required Text

Holowchak, M. Andrew. *Philosophy of Sport: Critical Readings: Crucial Issues*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.

Academic Integrity

An offense of plagiarism will result in failure from the course.

Contact Info

Office Hours:

Dobbs Ferry: Mondays & Thursdays, 10:00am-11:30am;

Bronx: Wednesdays, 11:40-noon.

Phone: 914-674-7355 (office) Email: dkilpatrick@mercy.edu

Schedule

Sept 8 – Introduction

Sept 15 – ONLINE: Personal Statements

Sept 22 & 29 – The Nature of Sport and Play: Holowchak, ch. 1;

Oct 6 & 13 – Metaphysics: Plato, from *Phaedo*; Descartes, from *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Nietzsche, from *Will to Power*; Meier, "Embodiment, Sport and Meaning"; Sartre, from *Being and Nothingness*; Esposito, "Play and Possibility"

Oct 20 & 27 – Aesthetics: Holowchak, ch. 2; Kilpatrick, "Nietzsche's Arsenal"

Nov 3, 10, 17 – Ethics: Holowchak, chs. 3; Dixon, "On Sportsmanship and 'Running Up the Score"; Fraleigh, "Why the Good Foul Is Not Good"; Leaman, "Cheating and Fair Play in Sport";

Nov 24 & Dec 1 – Sport and Society: Holowchak, ch. 5;

Dec 8 & 15 – Group presentations, Analysis of philosophical issues in a sport Dec 22 – Individual presentations, Analysis of a contemporary ethical concern

Websites

British Philosophy of Sport Association http://www.philosophyofsport.org.uk//philosophyofsport.html

Ethics in Sport

http://www.philosophytalk.org/pastShows/EthicsinSport.htm

European Association for the Philosophy of Sport http://www.philosophyofsport.eu/

International Association for the Philosophy of Sport http://www.iaps.net/

Philosophy of Sport (blog)

http://philosophyandsports.blogspot.com/

Bibliography

Arlott, John, ed. *The Oxford Companion to Sports and Games*. New York: Oxford UP, 1975.

Beamish, Rob. Fastest, Highest, Strongest: A Critique of High-Performance Sport. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Boxill, Jan, ed. Sports Ethics: An Anthology. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003.

Caillois, Roger. Man, Play and Games.

Eitzen, D Stanley, ed. *Sport in Contemporary Society: An Anthology*. 7th ed. Boulder, CO: Paradigm, 2005.

---., and George H. Sage. *Sociology of North American Sport*. 8th ed. Boulder, CO: Paradigm, 2008.

Holowchak, M. Andrew, ed. *Philosophy of Sport: Critical Readings, Crucial Issues*. New York: Prentice Hall, 2002.

Huizinga, Johanes. Homo Ludens.

Hyland, Drew A. *Philosophy of Sport*. St. Paul, MN: Paragon House, 1990.

Mcfee, Graham. Sport, Rules and Values: Philosophical Investigations into the Nature of Sport.

McGinn, Colin. Sport. Acumen, 2008

Mcnamee, Mike and Jim Parry, eds. Ethics and Sport. London: E& FN Spon, 1998.

Morgan, William. Why Sports Morally Matter. New York: Routledge.

Richards, Ted, ed. Soccer and Philosophy. Chicago: Open Court: 2010.

Smith, Ed. What Sport Tells Us About Life. New York: Penguin, 2009.

Suits, Bernard. The Grasshopper: Games, Life and Utopia. Broadview P, 2005.

Wells, Stephen. "Competitiveness Another Victim of America's PC Brigade." *The Guardian*. 27 January 2009. http://www.guardian.co.uk/sport/blog/2009/jan/27/steven-wells-basketball-dallas-good-game/print