San José State University
Department of Kinesiology
KIN 161, Philosophy of Sport, Section 01, Spring 2020

Instructor: Daniel Bohigian
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Phone: 408-924-3010
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:15 PM - 1:45 PM
Class Days/Time: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
Classroom: Sweeny Hall 242

Course Description

Emphasis on systems of philosophy, aesthetics, and moral considerations, along with metaphysical fitness and discussion of contemporary issues. This course is designed to provide a philosophical analysis of the various sub-disciplines under the umbrella of kinesiology. Issues related to sport, fitness, movement efficiency, health, and rehabilitation will be studied from an axiological (ethics & aesthetics), ontological (meaning & significance), and existential perspective. In addition, how sport, fitness, rehabilitation, and movement activities shape individual and group identity (self-concept & self-esteem) will be examined. The mind/body connection will be discussed in terms of optimal performance and optimal health.

Moreover, the ethical implications of contemporary issues related to sport and physical activity will be addressed; including drug enhanced performance, violence, gender, and politics in sport.

The design of this course is fourfold in nature:

1. To provide analysis of the leading philosophies and theories related to sport, fitness, movement efficiency, and personal health.

2. To understand ethical, aesthetic, and technical issues related to sport, business, fitness, health, and rehabilitation.

3. To discuss the philosophical, sociological, and psychological aspects of sport, movement, fitness, and health behaviors as related to the development of the individual, as well as diverse groups. This integrative understanding will serve as a basis for developing human potential and skills for responsible social interaction.
4. To understand the role of violence, drugs, and politics in sport, along with fitness, movement, and rehabilitative activities.

Course Format (Lecture)

This class follows a lecture format for the majority of class meetings. Come prepared to take notes and ask questions. Electronic devices, including laptops, tablets, and cell phones, will not be allowed during lecture. However, on scheduled in class presentation preparation days (see course schedule for details) use of laptops and tablets is highly encouraged.

Canvas Learning Management System and SJSU One

All course materials can and will be found on the Canvas Learning Management System (https://sjsu.instructure.com). Be sure to consistently and actively check Canvas for announcements, assignment specifics and templates, assignment commentary and feedback, and posted grades. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas and the messaging system through SJSU ONE. Also, feel free to send me messages through Canvas. Email is not the only effective means of communication for this course.

Kinesiology Undergraduate Degree Student Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

(PLO 1) Students will be able to explain, identify, and/or demonstrate the theoretical and/or scientific principles that can be used to address issues or problems in the sub-disciplines in kinesiology.

(PLO 2) Students will be able to effectively communicate in writing (clear, concise and coherent) on topics in kinesiology.

(PLO 3) Students will be able to effectively communicate through an oral presentation (clear, concise and coherent) on topics in kinesiology.

(PLO 4) Students will be able to utilize their experiences across a variety of health related and skill-based activities to inform their scholarship and practice in the sub disciplines in kinesiology.

(PLO 5) Students will be able to identify and analyze social justice and equity issues related to kinesiology for diverse populations.
Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

(CLO 1) To develop a philosophical analysis of fitness, sport, embodiment, drug-enhanced performance, personal health and rehabilitation.

(CLO 2) To acquire a philosophical understanding of sport, health, fitness, and rehabilitation within the context of a diverse, multicultural, and interdependent world.

(CLO 3) To identify philosophical criteria for passing judgment on artistic and technical movement forms.

(CLO 4) To analyze pertinent issues related to sport, fitness, health, and rehabilitation from an axiological (values), ontological (personal meaning), and ethical perspective.

(CLO 5) To focus on practical ethical issues in sport, that is, to answer the question: how ought we to act in sport (with special attention to how we ought to treat one another in sport settings).

(CLO 6) To acquire an understanding of the pursuit of excellence, as well as human limitations; the importance of accepting success, failure, and loss will be analyzed and discussed.

(CLO 7) To explore in implications of physical activity (including sport) on moral choice making.

(CLO 8) To be able to articulate a professional philosophy relevant to students’ professional work practice.

Required Texts and Additional Readings

Jason Holt, Philosophy of Sport: Core Readings, Broadview Press, 2014.

Additional readings will be posted on SJSU Canvas under the “Additional Readings” module as PDF’s. See the course schedule toward the bottom of the syllabus for reading assignments and topics of discussion.

Classroom and Course Protocol

1. Due to the dense nature of course material covered in lecture, it is vital that students attend class in order to facilitate effective and accurate comprehension of concepts, detail, and philosophy in general.
2. Make-up exams will not be an option, unless documented, severe, or compelling circumstances arise.

3. Assignments are expected by the posted due-date. Late assignments will be penalized a letter-grade per day late (i.e. From an “A” to an “B“). Assignments not submitted within 5 days of the original posted due date will not be accepted unless documented, severe, or compelling circumstances arise.

4. The majority of your assignments will be collected via file upload on Canvas, with the ethical position presentation questions being the exception. Be sure to check Canvas regularly for due dates, assignment details, and assignment templates (when applicable).

5. Please put away cell phones and switch them to silent. Use of cell phones during class time is distracting and disruptive.

6. Laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices will not be permitted during lecture unless you have documented arrangements with the AEC. However, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices are encouraged for scheduled in class presentation preparation meetings.

7. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted under any circumstance.

8. Email correspondence should include your full name and the class you are inquiring about (KIN 161). For policy or assignment questions, please check the syllabus first before sending a message to the instructor.

9. All materials must be original works of the student. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**Methods of Evaluation/Course Assignments**

*Critical Reflections* - 8 assignments, 5 points each, 40 points total (25% of final grade)

*In-Class Midterm Examination* - 30 points (19% of final grade)

*Ethical Position Presentation* - 30 points (19% of final grade)

*Ethical Position Presentation Attendance & Questions* - 3 meetings, 5 points each, 15 points total (9% of final grade)

*Final Examination* - 45 points (28% of final grade)
  - In-Class Portion - 25 points
  - Take Home Portion - 20 points

*Total Points Available* - 160
Note: An extra credit opportunity worth a maximum of 5 points will be offered toward the end of the semester.

Grading Scale

Traditional 100-90-80-70-60-50 scale with plus and minuses: 87 is B+, 72 is C-, etc.

Example:
B+ (87 % - 89%)
B (83% - 86 %)
B- (80% - 82%)

Note: “.5” and above in final grade calculations are rounded-up. Example: A final tally of 86.5% rounds-up to 87% (B+).

Remember: Assignments are expected by the posted due-date. Late assignments will be penalized a letter-grade per day late (i.e. From an “A” to an “B“). Assignments not submitted within 5 days of the original posted due date will not be accepted unless documented, severe, or compelling circumstances arise, or if you have documented arrangements with the AEC.

Course Assignments

Critical Reflections

I will provide you with 8 questions throughout the semester. See the course schedule along with regularly checking Canvas for assignment due dates. Templates for each critical reflection will be posted on Canvas under the “Critical Reflections” module. The questions will be sensitive to the reading material covered in class the days prior. I am looking for concise, thoughtful, critical, and informed analysis regarding the reading from which the question is taken. These reflections are not purely “opinion” pieces and are not summaries by any means. Be sure not to rely solely on direct quotes for the bulk of your content. You must demonstrate comprehension of the reading material by citing ideas from specific philosophers.

Two full paragraphs are expected per each critical reflection (type written, 12 point font, double spaced, one inch margins). Again, I am not looking for a summary of the reading or a collection of direct quotes, rather, I am looking for informed and thoughtful responses. A minimum of two clear in-text citations (last name of author/philosopher and page number) is required per each response.

Satisfies PLO 1, 2, 4, & 5

Ethical Position Presentations
One of the goals in this course is to get you to think, write, and talk about sport in disciplined, thoughtful, and creative ways. For many of you it will be an opportunity to discuss and write about sport in ways that you have never thought about or considered. Toward the end of the semester (check the course schedule for exact dates) the class will stage a series of presentations that deal with controversial issues in the larger world of sport and kinesiology in general. Your goal, in teams of about 5 students, is to persuasively argue opposing viewpoints on the issue assigned for your team to discuss.

One team will argue and present the pro side (professional athletes should be allowed to use steroids, for example) while the other team will argue and present the con side of the issue (professional athletes should not be allowed to use steroids). We will assign teams and topics at random, via the trusted “drawing out of a hat” method during the third week of the semester.

A minimum of 7 outside sources (other than the textbook/additional readings on Canvas) should be consulted for the presentation and those sources should be referenced in the team’s outline. Feel free to include more than 7 outside sources if you wish. You must reference the textbook or any of the additional readings covered in lecture a minimum of 7 different and unique times throughout the presentation. Each team will be required to prepare a 25 - 30 minute powerpoint presentation complete with proper citations to outside material contained in the slides. More information on the presentation will be provided as we progress through the semester.

Satisfies PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

**Ethical Position Presentation Attendance & Questions**

In order to facilitate a productive discussion, class members not participating in the day’s scheduled presentations are required to attend each presentation, along with turning in a hard copy of two potential questions that could be asked of the presentation groups. Prior to the presentations, you are to offer two questions you could hypothetically ask of both the Pro side of the issue and the Con side of the issue without knowing for certain the content discussed by both presentation teams.

You will turn in a hard copy of your questions in class following the scheduled presentation of the day. Grades will be determined based on the relevance to course material and insight of the questions you propose. No file uploads or emailed responses will be accepted. A template will be provided on Canvas.

Satisfies PLO 1, 2, & 5

**Midterm Examination**
The midterm examination will take place in class. You are required to bring in an 882 - E scantron and a No. 2 pencil. The examination will be open book and open note and consists of 30 multiple choice questions. No use of electronic devices will be allowed.

Satisfies PLO 1

**Final Examination**

Your responses for the take home portion of the final examination will be similar to what I expect from your critical reflections. The two questions assigned will be more difficult, covering more dense and technical subject matter. Also, I expect longer responses.

The responses shall be a minimum of three full paragraphs (type written, 12 point font, double spaced, one inch margins). Try to limit each individual response to a maximum of two pages. If you feel like you need to write more than two pages, feel free, but make sure the material is relevant.

The in-class portion of the final will require an 882 - E scantron form and a No. 2 pencil. The examination will be open book and open note and consists of 25 multiple choice questions. No use of electronic devices will be allowed.

Satisfies PLO 1, 2, 4, & 5

**San José State University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page. For more information on general university policies, visit the following link: [http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo)
# KIN 161 / Philosophy of Sport - Spring 2020 Course Schedule

If necessary, changes to course schedule and/or material will be disclosed with prior notice.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
<th>Textbook P. #’s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/27 M</td>
<td><strong>Course Requirements and Responsibilities - Meet and Greet.</strong></td>
<td>PDF posted on Canvas</td>
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</table>
|      | 1/29 W | **Introduction to the Philosophy of Sport**  
“Philosophy of Sport” by R. Scott Kretchmar | |
|      | 2/5 W  | **The Nature of Sport: Playing Games**  
“The Nature and Significance of Play” by Johan Huizinga  
The Nature of Sport: Playing Games  
“The Elements of Sport” by Bernard Suits  
**Critical Reflection #1 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.** | P. 3 - 17 |
| 2    | 2/3 M | **The Nature of Sport: Defining Sport**  
“The Nature of Sport: A Definitional Effort” by John W. Loy and  
“Triad Trickery: Playing With Sport and Games” by Klaus V. Meier  
**Ethical Position Presentation “Draft” & Team Meet and Greet**  
Be sure to bring your laptops, tablets, or any other device you need to make the session productive.  
**Critical Reflection #2 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.** | P. 19 - 34 |
| 3    | 2/10 M | **The Nature of Sport: Defining Sport**  
“The Nature of Sport: A Definitional Effort” by John W. Loy and  
“Triad Trickery: Playing With Sport and Games” by Klaus V. Meier | P. 35 - 79 |
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/17 M</td>
<td>The Nature of Sport: Sport Epistemology&lt;br&gt;“The Separation of Body and Soul” by Plato and “The Real Distinction Between the Mind and Body of Man” by Rene Descartes.</td>
<td>PDF posted on Canvas</td>
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<td>2/19 W</td>
<td>The Nature of Sport: Sport Epistemology&lt;br&gt;“What We Know When We Know a Game” by Margaret Steel&lt;br&gt;<strong>Critical Reflection #3 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.</strong></td>
<td>P. 81 - 91</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>2/24 M</td>
<td>The Nature of Sport: Sport Epistemology&lt;br&gt;“The Ideal Swing, the Ideal Body: Myths of Optimization” by Jason Holt and Laurence E. Holt</td>
<td>P. 93 - 105</td>
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<td>2/26 W</td>
<td>The Nature of Sport: Exploring Physicality&lt;br&gt;“Cybersport” by Dennis Hemphill and “Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality” by Iris Marion Young</td>
<td>P. 107 - 125 &amp; P. 127 - 149</td>
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<td><strong>Critical Reflection #4 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>3/2 M</td>
<td>The Nature of Sport: Exploring Physicality&lt;br&gt;“Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality” by Iris Marion Young (continued)</td>
<td>P. 127 - 149</td>
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<td>3/4 W</td>
<td>Rules and Values: Sport Aesthetics&lt;br&gt;“The Aesthetic in Sport” by David Best&lt;br&gt;<strong>Critical Reflection #5 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.</strong></td>
<td>P. 153 - 178</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>3/9 M</td>
<td><strong>Rules and Values: Banning Drugs</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Good Competition and Drug-Enhanced Performance” by Robert L. Simon</td>
<td>P. 201 - 213</td>
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<td><em>Critical Reflection #6 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.</em></td>
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<td>3/18 W</td>
<td><strong>In Class Presentation Preparation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Be sure to bring your laptops, tablets, or any other device you need to make the session productive.</td>
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<td><strong>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules</strong>&lt;br&gt;“Nietzsche - A Philosopher of Fitness” by Esar Shvartz</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3/23 M</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Examination Review &amp; In Class Presentation Preparation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Be sure to bring your laptops, tablets, or any other device you need to make the session productive.</td>
<td>Review sheet posted on Canvas</td>
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<td>3/25 W</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Examination</strong>&lt;br&gt;Bring an 882 - E scantron and a No. 2 pencil</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>3/30 M</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break - No Class</strong></td>
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<td>4/1 W</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break - No Class</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>4/6 M</td>
<td>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules “Boxing, Paternalism and Legal Moralism” by Nicholas Dixon</td>
<td>PDF posted on Canvas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4/8 W</td>
<td>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules “Boxing, Paternalism and Legal Moralism” by Nicholas Dixon (continued)</td>
<td>PDF posted on Canvas</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/13 M</td>
<td>Rules and Values: Breaking Rules “Can Cheaters Play the Game” by Craig K. Lehman</td>
<td>P. 229 - 238</td>
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<td>Critical Reflection #7 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.</td>
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<td>4/22 W</td>
<td>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules “Gamesmanship” by Leslie A. Howe (continued)</td>
<td>P. 261 - 280</td>
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<td><strong>Critical Reflection #8 is due via file upload on Canvas by the beginning of class.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>In Class Presentation Preparation</strong> (Be sure to bring your laptops, tablets, or any other device you need to make the session productive).</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>4/27</td>
<td><strong>Ethical Position Presentations - Team 1 Pros and Team 1 Cons</strong>&lt;br&gt;Topic: Professional athletes should be allowed to use steroids.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>A hard copy of your presentation questions are due at the end of the class period.</em></td>
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<td>4/29</td>
<td><strong>Ethical Position Presentations - Team 2 Pros and Team 2 Cons</strong>&lt;br&gt;Topic: Professional American football should be banned due to concerns over concussions and CTE.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>A hard copy of your presentation questions are due at the end of the class period.</em></td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td><strong>Ethical Position Presentations - Team 3 Pros and Team 3 Cons</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Topic:</strong> Professional leagues and organizations should restrict their athletes and employees from using their platforms to protest and discuss contemporary social and political issues.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>A hard copy of your presentation questions are due at the end of the class period.</em></td>
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<td>5/6</td>
<td><strong>Ethical Position Presentations - Team 4 Pros and Team 4 Cons</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Topic:</strong> Division 1A college athletes should be monetarily compensated beyond a scholarship.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>A hard copy of your presentation questions are due at the end of the class period.</em></td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>5/11</td>
<td>&quot;Sportsmanship” by Randolph M. Feezell&lt;br&gt;<strong>Final Examination Review &amp; Take Home Final Examination Questions Distributed on Canvas</strong></td>
<td>P. 281 - 297</td>
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<td>5/15</td>
<td>**Final Examination Period</td>
<td>9:45 AM - 12:00 PM**&lt;br&gt;Bring an 882 - E scantron and a No. 2 pencil.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Take Home Final Examination questions are due via file upload on Canvas by 9:45 AM.</em></td>
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