

**San José State University**  
**Kinesiology**  
**KIN 161, Philosophy of Sport, Section 02, Fall 2015**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Daniel Bohigian
<b>Office Location:</b>	SPX 156
<b>Email:</b>	daniel.bohigian@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday and Wednesday, 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday and Wednesday, 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM
<b>Classroom:</b>	SPX 151

### **Course Description**

Emphasis on systems of philosophy, aesthetic and moral considerations, metaphysical fitness and 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, & 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, fitness, movement, and rehabilitative activities.

## Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The objectives of this course are the following:

1. To develop a philosophical analysis of fitness, sport, embodiment, drug-enhanced performance, personal health and rehabilitation;
2. To acquire a philosophical understanding of sport, health, fitness, and rehabilitation within the context of a diverse, multicultural, and interdependent world;
3. To identify philosophical criteria for passing judgment on artistic and technical movement forms;
4. To analyze pertinent issues related to sport, fitness, health, and rehabilitation from an axiological (values), ontological (personal meaning), and ethical perspective;
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);
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;
7. To explore in implications of physical activity (including sport) on moral choice making;
8. To be able to articulate a professional philosophy relevant to students' professional work practice.

## Required Texts/Readings

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

Additional readings will be distributed via email.

## Classroom Protocol

1. Since much of the learning in class occurs during in-class discussions, it is vital that students attend class.
2. Make-up exams will not be given except in cases of serious documented illness or unforeseen emergencies.
3. Promptness is required to maintain a positive and productive learning atmosphere.
4. Papers are expected by the class meeting time on the due-date. Late papers will be penalized one half letter-grade per day late (i.e. From an "A" to an "A-").
5. In-class & homework assignments may not be made up unless there are serious and compelling circumstances.
6. Please put away cell phones (and switch them to silent) – use of these devices during class time is not appropriate.
7. Laptops will only be permitted for class related activities – if computers are not being used for classroom activities, you will be asked to discontinue use.
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 greensheet and the class website first before sending a message to the instructor.

## **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

Methods of Evaluation:

Critical Reflections - 3 assignments total, 20 points each, 60 points total  
Midterm Examination (Take-Home) - 100 points  
Sport Philosophy Paper (Rough Draft)- 40 points  
Sport Philosophy Paper (Final Draft) - 125 points

Grading:

Traditional 90-80-70-60 scale with plus and minuses (88 is B+, 72 is C-)  
{Note: .5 and above in final grade calculations are rounded-up: Ex. 87.5% (rounds-up to 88%= B+) whereas 87.4% = B}

## **Major Course Assignments**

### ***Critical Reflections***

I will provide you with a question questions regarding the reading material covered the week prior. I am looking for thoughtful, critical and informed analysis regarding the reading in which the question is taken. It is your job to identify the critical issues and expand upon them, respectively. There will be three reflections required of you throughout the semester. Questions will be (most often) distributed on a Wednesday and responses are due the following Monday. Responses shall be a *minimum* of three full paragraphs (type written, 12 point font, double spaced, one inch margins). Try to limit your response to a maximum of two pages. Use these weekly reflections as a potential time to identify a topic you would like to expand upon for your “sport philosophy paper” detailed below.

### ***Sport Philosophy Paper***

This exploratory paper is intended to provide a space for students to define and reflect upon issues of philosophical significance through the lens of sport participation and physical activity. You are required to create papers that are geared toward exploring the philosophically relevant linked to your play, game, and sporting experience. In this paper, you are empowered to express, in your own words, the ways in which ethical issues, moral decisions, and other philosophical issues have intersected (in some important way) with your participation in physical movement, the sport you play or the sport you most enjoy watching. Moreover you may explore how the integration of your experiences, whether primary or secondary, impact who you see yourself as

(i.e., your identity), how you choose to make particular decisions, or how you make sense of the world.

It is important that you incorporate one or more of the philosophical and theoretical positions introduced over the balance of the semester in your paper but you are not required to write a “research paper” in the strict sense. I am not looking for a report, rather, a thoughtful presentation on the issue you choose to pursue. However, if you do raise a claim or an issue that requires additional research to corroborate, I will need to see some credible sources. You are required to link your paper to appropriate academic literature by utilizing a minimum of two academic (journal or book) sources. Creativity is highly encouraged. You will be required to turn in a statement of your topic of choice to me for approval as well as a rough draft.

This paper is open ended. There is no prompt or grading rubric to follow. I am looking for well formed arguments, effective citing of topics discussed in class along with expansion upon those topics, creativity, and last but not least, passion regarding the subject. Choose something that interests YOU. More on this assignment as the semester advances.

**Rough Draft** Paper guidelines: 3-4 double spaced, type written pages. 12-point font, 1-inch margins, along with an in-progress and proper works cited list.

**Final Draft** Paper guidelines: 6-8 doubled spaced, type written pages. 12-point font, 1-inch margins, along with a complete and proper works cited list.

## University Policies

### Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s [Academic Integrity Policy](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html) is available at [http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/faculty\\_and\\_staff/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at [http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Learning Assistance Resource Center**

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The [LARC website](http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

# KIN 161 / Philosophy of Sport, Fall 2015, Course Schedule

Changes to course schedule/material will be disclosed with ample prior notice. Text written in bold identifies important dates and due assignments. Underlined text identifies the theme and topic of study for the day.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24 M  8/26 W	<p>Course requirements &amp; responsibilities, meet and greet.</p> <p><u>Introduction to the Philosophy of Sport</u> Read “Philosophy of Sport” by R. Scott Kretchmar (distributed via email) for meeting on 8/26</p> <p><u>Introduction to the Philosophy of Sport</u> “Philosophy of Sport” by R. Scott Kretchmar -Read pages 1-19 of the textbook for meeting on 8/31</p>
2	8/31 M  9/2 W	<p><u>The Nature of Sport: Playing Games</u> “The Nature and Significance of Play” by Johan Huizinga -Read pages 19-35 of the textbook for meeting on 9/2</p> <p><u>The Nature of Sport: Playing Games</u> “The Elements of Sport” by Bernard Suits - Read pages 35- 55 of the textbook for meeting on 9/9 - <b>Critical Reflection #1 Question Distributed (due 9/9 in class)</b></p>
3	9/7 M (No Class)  9/9 W	<p><b>Campus Closed For Labor Day, No Class.</b></p> <p><b>Critical Reflection #1 is Due</b> <u>The Nature of Sport: Defining Sport</u> “The Nature of Sport: A Definitional Effort” by John W. Loy - Read pages 55 - 79 of the textbook for meeting on 9/14</p>
4	9/14 M  9/16 W	<p><u>The Nature of Sport: Defining Sport</u> “Triad Trickery: Playing With Sport and Games” by Klaus V. Meier</p> <p>- Read “The Separation of Body and Soul” by Plato and “The Real Distinction Between the Mind and Body of Man” by Rene Descartes (distributed via email) for meeting on 9/16.</p> <p>- “The Separation of Body and Soul” by Plato and “The Real Distinction Between the Mind and Body of Man” by Rene Descartes.</p> <p>- Read pages 81-93 of the textbook for meeting on 9/21 - <b>Critical Reflection #2 Question Distributed (due 9/21 in class).</b></p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	9/21 M         9/23 W	<p><b>Critical Reflection #2 is Due</b>  <u>The Nature of Sport: Sport Epistemology</u>            “What We Know When We Know a Game” by Margaret Steel</p> <p>- Read pages 93- 107 of the textbook for meeting on 9/23</p> <p><u>The Nature of Sport: Sport Epistemology</u>            “The Ideal Swing, the Ideal Body: Myths of Optimization” by Jason Holt and Laurence E. Holt</p> <p>- Read pages 107 – 127 of the textbook for meeting on 9/28</p>
6	9/28 M         9/30 W	<p><u>The Nature of Sport: Exploring Physicality</u>            “Cybersport” by Dennis Hemphill</p> <p>-Read pages 127- 149 of the textbook for meetings on 9/30 and 10/5</p> <p><u>The Nature of Sport: Exploring Physicality</u>            “Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality”</p> <p><b>Critical Reflection #3 Question Distributed (due 10/5 in class).</b></p>
7	10/5 M         10/7 W	<p><b>Critical Reflection #3 is Due</b>  <u>The Nature of Sport: Exploring Physicality</u>            “Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality” continued.</p> <p>- Read pages 153-179 of the textbook for meeting on 10/7</p> <p><u>Rules and Values: Sport Aesthetics</u>            “The Aesthetic in Sport” by David Best</p> <p>-Read pages 179-200 of the textbook for meeting on 10/12</p>
8	10/12 M         10/14 W	<p><u>Rules and Values: Sports Aesthetics</u>            “Sport, the Aesthetic and Art: Further Thoughts” by Peter J. Arnold</p> <p>- Read pages 201-214 of the textbook for meeting on 10/14</p> <p><u>Rules and Values: Banning Drugs</u>            “Good Competition and Drug-Enhanced Performance” by Robert L. Simon</p> <p>- Read pages 215-228 of the textbook for meetings on 10/19 and 10/21</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	10/19 M  10/21 W	<p><b>***Take Home Midterm Questions Distributed***</b>  <u>Rules and Values: Banning Drugs</u>  “Paternalism, Drugs, and the Nature of Sports” by W.M Brown</p> <p><u>Rules and Values: Banning Drugs</u>  “Paternalism, Drugs, and the Nature of Sports” by W.M Brown continued.</p> <p>- Read “Boxing, Paternalism and Legal Moralism” by Nicholas Dixon (distributed via email) for meetings on 10/26 and 10/28</p>
10	10/26 M  10/28 W	<p><b>***Take Home Midterm is Due In Class***</b>  “Boxing, Paternalism and Legal Moralism” by Nicholas Dixon</p> <p>“Boxing, Paternalism and Legal Moralism” by Nicholas Dixon (continued)  -Read pages 229-238 of the textbook for meeting on 11/2</p>
11	11/2 M  11/4 W	<p><u>Rules and Values: Breaking Rules</u>  “Can Cheaters Play the Game” by Craig K. Lehman  -Read pages 239-259 of the textbook for meeting on 11/4</p> <p><u>Rules and Values: Breaking Rules</u>  “Playing Games With Prisoners Dilemmas” by Simon Eassom</p> <p>-Read “Nietzsche: A Philosopher of Fitness” by Esar Shvartz (distributed by email) for meetings on 11/9 and 11/16</p>
12	11/9 M  11/11 W (No Class)	<p><u>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules</u>  “Nietzsche: A Philosopher of Fitness” by Esar Shvartz</p> <p><b>Campus Closed for Veteran’s Day – No Class</b></p>
13	11/16 M  11/18 W	<p><b>***Rough Draft of Final Paper Is Due***</b>  <u>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules</u>  “Nietzsche: A Philosopher of Fitness” by Esar Shvartz (Continued)</p> <p>-Read Pages 261-280 of the textbook for meetings on 11/18 and 11/23</p> <p><u>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules</u>  “Gamesmanship” by Leslie A. Howe</p>



<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
14	11/23 M	<u>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules</u> “Gamesmanship” by Leslie A. Howe (Continued)  -Read pages 281-294 of the textbook for meetings on 11/25 and 11/30
	11/25 W	<u>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules</u> “Sportsmanship” by Randolph M. Feezell
15	11/30 M	<u>Rules and Values: Beyond Rules</u> “Sportsmanship” by Randolph M. Feezell (Continued)
	12/2 W	Final Paper Workshop. Bring in your (hopefully) close to finished final paper for questions and discussions.
16	12/7 M (Last Class)	Semester Wrap Up and Review/Closing Statements. Bring in your (hopefully) even closer to finished paper for last minute inquiries.
	12/10 Th	<b>Final Exam Period   9:45 AM – 12:00 PM</b> <b>Final Paper is Due IN CLASS</b>