

SYLLABUS
Introduction to Sports and Spirituality (SPHS 1120)
Graduate Theological Union
Spring 2010
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Mudd 102

Instructors:

James Lawrence, Instructor of the History of Christianity, PSR
Office: Swedenborgian House of Studies, Phone: 510-849-8232
email: jlawrence@psr.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Darleen Pryds, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality, FST
Office: FST Phone: 848-5232 ext. 21 email: dpryds@fst.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

Sports claim a dominating place in American life and culture but a minuscule place in religious discourse. Yet, religion is often invoked in the arena of sports itself; sports culture raises moral issues around gender, racial relations, sexual orientation, class, and economics; and pro and amateur athletes often understand their participation as a spiritual practice. We will explore sports broadly as a site for spirituality through a multidisciplinary approach using history, sociology, theology, and finally spiritual practice.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, the student will be able to: situate the dimension of sports in a historical cultural perspective; analyze aspects of the dynamic relationship sports plays in culture; articulate a broad and nuanced understanding of the potential for athletic competition to be undertaken as a spiritual practice; and if applicable, incorporate the arena of sports in her or his vision of ministry.

Course Requirements

Each student will actively participate in class sessions, perform an oral class presentation, will write two short (2-3 pages) reflection papers on a sporting event they attend or watch on television, and write a final term paper (12-20 pages) on a topic approved by the instructors. Final paper can be either an academic research paper or a pastoral project.

Class Session Structure

Classes will contain a mix of lecture and discussion in every session. Lecture will comprise no more than half of the class time. Therefore, students will be expected to have done the reading and come ready to participate in probing the meaning of the readings in class discussions. Depending on final class size, there may be small group discussions designed for a portion of class sessions. All readings will be either in the Course Reader (available at Copy Central) or on Moodle (passcode is “kickoff”).

Semester Schedule

Part One: An Overview of Sports and Spirituality

Feb. 2 Introduction

Topics include an overview of the historical, cultural, and psychological dimensions of spirituality in the arena of sports and athletic competition. We will have an in-class reading experiment.

Feb. 9 Spirituality Studies and Sports: Methodology and Questions

Topics include methodology of Christian Spirituality and the realm of the exercising body as a modality for spiritual experience

Reading:

- ◆ Perrin, David B. "Questions of Definitions," *Studying Christian Spirituality*, 16-32. New York: Routledge, 2007. (Moodle)
- ◆ Murphy, Michael. "Adventure and Sport," *The Future of the Body*, 415-47. Los Angeles: Tarcher, 1992. (Moodle)
- ◆ Saint-Sing, Susan. "Arete," in *Spirituality of Sport: Balancing Body and Soul*, 1-17. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2004. (Moodle)

Part Two: Inter-Disciplinary Methodology of Sports and Spirituality

Feb. 16 Historical Interpretations of Sports and Spirituality I

Topics include ancient Greek and Aztec games, medieval tournaments, and Asian martial arts are examples to be explored both in their historical context and as points of departure for contemporary relevance.

Reading:

- ◆ David B. Perrin, "Questions of History," *Studying Christian Spirituality*, 149-168. New York: Routledge, 2007. (Moodle)
- ◆ Coakley, Jay. "Studying the Past: Does it Help Us Understand Sports Today?" In *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*, 8th. ed., 62-76. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004. (Reader)
- ◆ Aiello, Maria. "A Brief History of Sport." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 13-21. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006.
- ◆ Freyne, Sean. "Early Christianity and the Greek Athletic Ideal." In *Sport*, ed. Gregory Baum & John Coleman, 93-100. Edinburgh: T&T Clarke, 1989. (Reader)

- ◆ Hoverd, William James. "Christian Bodies: A Tradition of Discipline and Asceticism" in *Working Out My Salvation: The Contemporary Gym and the Promise of "Self" Transformation*. Sport, Culture, and Society, v. 7, 9-22.. Oxford: Meyer and Meyer Sport, 2005. (Reader)

◆ Tomio, Shifu Nagaboshi. *The Bodhisattva Warriors: The Origin, Inner Philosophy, History, and Symbolism of the Buddhist Martial Art within India and China*, 248-256. York Beach, Maine: Samuel Weiser, Inc., 1994. (Reader)

Feb. 23

Historical Interpretations of Sports and Spirituality II

Topics include Puritan shunning of sports, the rise of “muscular Christianity” in American Christianity, and sports dominance in culture in contemporary America.

Reading:

◆ Coakley, Jay. “Studying the Past: Does it Help Us Understand Sports Today?” In *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*, 8th. ed., 77-95. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004. (Reader)

◆ Putney, Clifford. “God in the Gym,” in *Muscular Christianity: Manhood and Sports in Protestant America, 1880-1920*, 45-72. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001. (Reader)

◆ Putney, Clifford. “Conclusion,” in *Muscular Christianity: Manhood and Sports in Protestant America, 1880-1920*, 195-207. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001. (Moodle)

◆ Wesner, Brad. “Visions and Re-Visions: A History of the Modern Church Recreation and Sports Movement in the United States,” in *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*, ed. John Garner, 37-54. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2003. (Reader)

Mar. 2

Theological Interpretations of Sports and Spirituality I

Topics include sports as a place of witness and as a place of play

Reading:

◆ David B. Perrin, “Questions of God,” *Studying Christian Spirituality*, 96-110. New York: Routledge, 2007. (Moodle)

◆ Hyland, Drew A. “The Stance of Sport,” in *Philosophy of Sport*, 125-146. New York: Paragon House, 1990. (Reader)

◆ Higgs, Robert J. “Muscular Christianity, Holy Play, and Spiritual Exercises: Confusion about Christ in Sports and Religion,” in *Sport and Religion*, 89-103. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetic Books, 1992. (Reader)

◆ Kerrigan, Michael P. “Sports and the Christian Life: Reflections on Pope John Paul II’s Theology of Sport,” in *Sport and Religion*, 253-9. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetic Books, 1992. (Reader)

◆ Johnson, Robert K. “Play: Three Theological Options,” in *The Christian at Play*, 1-28. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1983. (Moodle)

Mar. 9

Theological Interpretations of Sports and Spirituality II

Topics include ethical issues in sports culture from a theological perspective

Reading:

- ◆ Spohn, William C. “Christian Spirituality and Theological Ethics,” in *The Blackwell Companion of Christian Spirituality*, ed. Arthur G. Holder, 269-74. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005. (Reader)
- ◆ Morgan, William J. “The Moral Case against Contemporary American Sports,” in *Why Sports Morally Matter*, 25-50. New York: Routledge, 2006. (Reader)
- ◆ Mieth, Dietmar. “Towards an Ethic of Sport in Contemporary Culture.” In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 23-43. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006. (Reader)

Mar. 16 Sociological Interpretations of Sports in Culture I

Topics include an introduction to sociology of sports culture, the role of commerce and money

Reading:

- ◆ David B. Perrin, “The Contribution of Sociology to Context,” in *Studying Christian Spirituality*, 69-76. New York: Routledge, 2007. (Moodle)
- ◆ Heinemann, Klaus. “Sport and Society: The Major Questions,” 11-20, in *Sport*, ed. Gregory Baum and John Coleman, Edinburgh: T&T Clarke, 1989. (Reader)
- ◆ Milne, George R. *Sports Marketing: Managing the Exchange Process*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 1999. e-book on gtu (e-book)
- ◆ Power, Clark. “Sport and Business.” In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 97-102. Vat. City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006. (Reader)
- ◆ Prebish, Charles S. “‘Heavenly Father, Divine Goalie’,” 43-53, in *Sport and Religion*, ed. Shirl J. Hoffman, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics Books. (Reader)

Mar. 23 No Class (Spring Break/Reading Week)

Mar. 30 Sociological Interpretations of Sports and Spirituality II

Topics include class, gender, race, and sexual orientations in the realm of sports culture.

Reading:

- ◆ Wiggins, David K. “The Notion of Double-Consciousness and the Involvement of Black Athletes in American Sport,” in *Ethnicity and Sport in North American History and Culture*, ed. George Eisen and David K. Wiggins, 133-155. (Reader)
- ◆ Melnick, Merrill J. and Sabo, Donald. “Sport and Social Mobility among African-American and Hispanic Athletes,” in *Ethnicity and Sport in No. American History and Culture*, ed. George Eisen & David K. Wiggins, 221-241. (Reader)
- ◆ Anderson, Eric. “Warming Up,” 13-18, and “The Center of Masculine Production: Gay Athletes in Professional Sports,” 135-158, in *In the Game: Gay Athletes and the Cult of Masculinity*. (Reader)
- ◆ Hall, M. Ann. “From Pre- to Postfeminism: A Four-Decade Journey,” in *Feminist Sport Studies: Sharing Experiences of Joy and Pain*, ed. Pirkko Markula, 45-61. (Reader)

Apr. 6 Sociological Interpretations of Sports in Culture III

Topics include spectating sports as ersatz religion, analysis of sports rituals and symbols in the major spectator sports, the role of the sports icon in American culture.

Reading:

- ◆ Carmody, Denise Lardner. “Big-Time Spectator Sports: A Feminist Christian Perspective,” 105-110, in *Sport and Religion*, ed. Shirl Hoffman, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics Books, 1992. (Reader)
- ◆ Price, Joseph L. “The Super Bowl as Religious Festival,” 13-17, in *Sport and Religion*, ed. Shirl Hoffman, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics Books, 1992. (Reader)
- ◆ Coakley, Jay. “Sports and Religions: Is It a Promising Combination?” in *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*, 8th. ed., 527-35. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004. (Reader)
- ◆ Baker, William J. “Making a Pitch for Jesus” 193-217, and “Athletes for Allah” 218-239 in *Playing with God: Religion and Modern Sport*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007. (Reader)

Apr. 13 Sports as Spiritual Practice I

Topics include methodology of studying spiritual practice

Reading:

- ◆ Perrin, David B. “Questions of Spiritual Practice,” *Studying Christian Spirituality*, 266-282. New York: Routledge, 2007. (Moodle)
- ◆ Hoverd, William James. “Working Out My Salvation: A Re-Assessment,” in *Working Out My Salvation: The Contemporary Gym and the Promise of “Self” Transformation*, 92-105. *Sport, Culture, and Society*, v. 7. Oxford: Meyer and Meyer Sport, 2005. (Reader)
- ◆ Slusher, Howard. “Sport: Morality and Ethics,” 227-236, in *Sport and Religion*, ed. Shirl Hoffman, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics Books, 1992. (Reader)

Apr. 20 Sports as Spiritual Practice II

Topics include the mind-body conversation as basis for spirituality in striving for optimal performance and as occasion for self-transcendence

Reading:

- ◆ Murphy, Michael, and White, Rhea A. *The Psychic Side of Sports*, 149-166. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1978. (Moodle)
- ◆ Murphy, Michael. “Metanormal Embodiment in Legend, Art, and Religious Doctrine,” in *The Future of the Body*, 201-213. (Moodle)
- ◆ Gallwey, Timothy. “The Discovery of Two Selves,” “Getting it Together,” 25-45; “The Meaning of Competition,” “The Inner Game Off the Court,” 119-141, in *The Inner Tennis: Playing the Game*. NY: Random House, 1976. (Moodle)
- ◆ Cooper, Andrew. *Playing in the Zone: Exploring the Spiritual Dimensions of Sports*, 27-40. Boston: Shambhala, 1998. (Moodle)

Apr. 27 **Sports as Spiritual Practice III**
Topic: Sports Psychology. Guest Speaker: Joan Steidinger, Ph.D.

Reading: TBD

May 4 **Sports as Spiritual Practice IV**
Topics include sports ministry as part of a vocational profile

Reading:

- ◆ Freza, Fortunato. "Professional Sport Chaplains." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 131-3. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006. (Reader)
- ◆ Lixey, Kevin. "The Goals of the Church and Sports Section." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 75-83. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006. (Reader)
- ◆ Mazza, Carlo. "The Pastoral Ministry of Sport: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead." In *Sport: An Educational and Pastoral Challenge*, ed. Pontifical Council for the Laity, 31-59. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008. (Reader)

Part Three: Student Presentations

May 11 **Student Presentations**

May 18 **Student Presentations.**

Bibliography and Recommended Reading

- Aiello, Maria. "A Brief History of Sport." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 13-21. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006.
- Anderson, Eric. *In the Game: Gay Athletes and the Cult of Masculinity*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2005.
- Baker, William J. *Playing with God: Religion and Modern Sport*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- _____. *If Christ Came to the Olympics*. Sydney, Australia: UNSW Press, 2000.
- Coakley, Jay. *Sports in Society: Issues and Controversies*, 8th. ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004.
- Chow, David. *Kung Fu: History, Philosophy, and Technique*. Garden City, NJ: Doubleday, 1977.

- Close, Robert M. *Towards a Theology of Sport: A Critical Response to Winning is the Only Thing*. Thesis, San Francisco Theological Seminary, 1980.
- Cooper, Andrew. *Playing in the Zone: Exploring the Spiritual Dimensions of Sports*. Boston: Shambhala, 1998.
- Freyne, Sean. "Early Christianity and the Greek Athletic Ideal." In *Sport*, edited by Gregory Baum and John Coleman, 93-100. Edinburgh: T&T Clarke, 1989.
- Freza, Fortunato. "Professional Sport Chaplains." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 131-3. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006.
- Friday, Karl F. *Legacies of the Sword: The Kashima-Shinryu and Samurai Martial Culture*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press, 1997. e-book on gtu
- Gallwey, Timothy. *Inner Tennis: Playing the Game*. New York: Random House, 1976.
- Grant, Robert W. *The Psychology of Sport: Facing One's True Opponent*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1988.
- Hall, M. Ann. "From Pre- to Postfeminism: A Four-Decade Journey," in *Feminist Sport Studies: Sharing Experiences of Joy and Pain*, ed. Pirkko Markula, 45-61. Albany: SUNY Press, 2005.
- Hasler, Richard A. *God's Game Plan*. Lima, OH: C.S.S. Publishing Company, 1990.
- Heinemann, Klaus. "Sport and Society: The Major Questions." In *Sport*, edited by Gregory Baum and John Coleman, 11-20. Edinburgh: T&T Clarke, 1989.
- Hoffman, Shirl. *Sport and Religion*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetic Books, 1992.
- Hoverd, William James. *Working Out My Salvation: The Contemporary Gym and the Promise of "Self" Transformation*. Sport, Culture, and Society, v. 7. Oxford: Meyer and Meyer Sport, 2005.
- Hyland, Drew A. *Philosophy of Sport*. New York: Paragon House, 1990.
- Ikulayo, Philomena B. *The Mind in the Body: Sports Psychology as the Cornerstone to Sports Achievements and Greatness*. Lagos, Nigeria: University of Lagos Press, 2003.
- Jackson, Phil and Delehanty, Hughl. *Sacred Hoops: Spiritual Lessons of a Hardwood Warrior*. New York: Hyperion Books, 1995.
- Johnson, Robert K. *The Christian at Play*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1983.

- Lixey, Kevin. "The Goals of the Church and Sports Section." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 75-83. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006.
- Mazza, Carlo. "The Pastoral Ministry of Sport: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead." In *Sport: An Educational and Pastoral Challenge*, ed. Pontifical Council for the Laity, 31-59. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008.
- Melnick, Merrill J. and Sabo, Donald. "Sport and Social Mobility among African-American and Hispanic Athletes," in *Ethnicity and Sport in North American History and Culture*, ed. George Eisen and David K. Wiggins, 221-241.
- Mieth, Dietmar. "Towards an Ethic of Sport in Contemporary Culture." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 23-43. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006.
- Milne, George R. *Sports Marketing: Managing the Exchange Process*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 1999. e-book on gtu
- Moltmann, Jurgen. *Theology of Play*. New York: Harper and Row, 1972.
- Morgan, William J. *Why Sports Morally Matter*. New York: Routledge, 2006.
- Murphy, Michael. *The Future of the Body: Explorations into the Further Evolution of Human Nature*. Los Angeles: Tarcher, 1992.
- Murphy, Michael, and White, Rhea A. *In the Zone: Transcendent Experience in Sports*. Middlesex, England: 1995.
- Paas, Manfred. "The Presence of the Chaplain in the World of Sport." In *Sport: An Educational and Pastoral Challenge*, ed. Pontifical Council for the Laity, 61-7. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2008.
- Payne, Peter. *Martial Arts: The Spiritual Dimension*. New York: Crossroad, 1981.
- Perrin, David B. *Studying Christian Spirituality*. New York: Routledge, 2007.
- Power, Clark. "Sport and Business." In *The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission*, 97-102. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2006.
- Prebish, Charles S. "'Heavenly Father, Divine Goalie'." In *Sport and Religion*, edited by Shirl J. Hoffman, 43-53. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics Books.
- Putney, Clifford. *Muscular Christianity: Manhood and Sports in Protestant America, 1880-1920*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

- Ryan, Frank. *Sports and Psychology*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1981.
- Ryan, Thomas. "Toward a Spirituality of Sport." In *Sport*, edited by Gregory Baum and John Coleman, 110-18. Edinburgh: T&T Clarke, 1989.
- Saint-Sing, Susan. *Spirituality of Sport: Balancing Body and Soul*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2004.
- Saotome, Mitsugi. *Aikido and the Harmony of Nature*. Boston: Shambhala, 1993.
- Tomio, Shifu Nagaboshi. *The Bodhisattva Warriors: The Origin, Inner Philosophy, History, and Symbolism of the Buddhist Martial Art within India and China*. York Beach, Maine: Samuel Weiser, Inc., 1994.
- Wesner, Brad. "Visions and Re-Visions: A History of the Modern Church Recreation and Sports Movement in the United States," in *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*, ed. John Garner, 37-54. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2003.
- Wiggins, David K. "The Notion of Double-Consciousness and the Involvement of Black Athletes in American Sport," in *Ethnicity and Sport in North American History and Culture*, ed. George Eisen and David K. Wiggins, 133-155. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994.