

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES
Classical Studies 2300: *SPORT AND RECREATION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD*
FALL/WINTER 2024-2025

NOTE THAT ALL TESTS FOR THIS COURSE ARE IN-PERSON

Time and Place of the Class: Asynchronous online. All lectures for the week will be uploaded by Monday morning of that week under the “Content” Tab on our course site.

Instructor, Teaching Assistant, and Office Hours: Posted on the course site

PREREQUISITES: There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

There is no place in modern society where the ancient world has had a greater and more apparent impact than the Olympic Games and modern sports competition. The purpose of this class is to explore the topic of athletics and spectacle in Ancient Greece and Rome with a view to its cultural and historical specifics, while also considering how the logic of competition in the ancient world relates to modern day practices. The course will rely on archaeology, art, poetry, primary literary sources, and secondary scholarship in order to reconstruct the historical practices and ideologies involved with ancient sports. We will focus on the history of the ancient Olympics, the violence of Roman sport and spectacle including gladiator combat and chariot races, ancient conceptions of gender and sport, the relationship between ancient and modern sports medicine, and the role of ancient athletics in the history of the modern Olympic games.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

On successful completion of this course students are expected to be able to:

- have acquired a knowledge of various kinds of ancient Greek and Roman sport and leisure activities
- identify and analyze ancient art which depicts sport and leisure activities
- understand the role of archaeology
- interpret ancient literary sources
- understand the ideals of Greek athletics and Roman spectacles

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students completing this course can expect to:

- understand how recreational and sport activities are a product of time, events, and context
- understand the limits of ancient evidence
- appreciate how antiquity continues to influence modern societies

COURSE MATERIALS (all textbooks are required for exams)

- Miller, S. *Ancient Greek Athletics* (2004)
- Kyle, D.G. *Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World*, (2nd ed. 2014)
- Miller, S. *Arete: Greek Sports from Ancient Sources* (3rd ed., 2004)

EVALUATION (all tests are multiple-choice, **in-person, and non-cumulative)**

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| • Midterm 1, Thursday, November 7 th at 7:00 pm | 20% |
| • Midterm 2, Thursday, February 6 th at 7:00 pm | 35% |
| • Final Exam (as scheduled by the registrar) | 45% |

NOTE: All makeup tests will be in-person, in the form of a short essay and short answers. They will be held one week after the regular test, on Thursday at 7:00 pm.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

AGA = *Ancient Greek Athletics* textbook

Sport = *Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World*

Arete = *Arete: Greek Sports from Ancient Sources* (note: the *Arete* readings refer to **selections, not pages**)

Sep 9	Lecture 0. Introduction & The World of Greek Athletics Read: AGA 1-19; <i>Arete</i> §3-19
16	Lecture 1. Origins and Essences, Late Bronze Age Read: <i>Sport</i> 22-50
23	Lecture 2. Homer Read: AGA 20-30; <i>Arete</i> §1-2
Oct 30	Lecture 3. Events I & II: Running & Contact Sports Read: AGA 31-60; <i>Arete</i> §20-46
7	Lecture 4. Events III & IV: Pentathlon & Equestrian Read: AGA 60-86; <i>Arete</i> §47-72
14	Fall Reading Week
21	Lecture 5. Panhellenic Games Read: AGA 87-112; <i>Arete</i> §73-80
28	Lecture 6. The Olympic Games Read: AGA 113-128; <i>Arete</i> §81-118
Nov 7	MIDTERM 1 (Thursday November 7 at 7:00 PM)
11	Lecture 7. The Money Games, Sparta Read: AGA 129-149; <i>Arete</i> §119-127
18	Lecture 8. Athletics in Archaic Greece Read: <i>Sport</i> 70-90; <i>Arete</i> §128-148
25	Lecture 9. The Modern Olympics, Women and Athletics Read: <i>Sport</i> 91-103, AGA 150-159; <i>Arete</i> §149-162
Dec 2	Lecture 10. Athletes and Heroes, Sport and Recreation Read: AGA 160-175; <i>Arete</i> §163-178
Jan 6	Lecture 11. Athletic Architecture & Education Read: AGA 176-195; <i>Arete</i> §179-189
13	Lecture 12. Hellenistic Sport, Professionals and Amateurs Read: AGA 196-201, 207-215; <i>Arete</i> §190-199, 205-223
20	Lecture 13. Politics and the Games, Athletics and Society Read: AGA 216-240; <i>Arete</i> §224-256
27	Lecture 14. The Roman Republic and Augustus Read: <i>Sport</i> 243-288
Feb 6	MIDTERM 2 (Thursday February 6 at 7:00 PM)
10	Lecture 15. Chariot-racing, Part I Read: <i>Sport</i> 289-298
17	Reading Week
24	Lecture 16. Chariot-racing, Part II
Mar 3	Lecture 17. Greek Athletics in the Roman Empire Read: <i>Sport</i> 314-323; <i>Arete</i> §200-204
10	Lecture 18. Gladiators, Part I Read: <i>Sport</i> 298-314
17	Lecture 19. Gladiators, Part II
24	Lecture 20. Gladiators, Part III
31	Lecture 21. Later Sports and Spectacles: Romans and Christians Read: <i>Sport</i> 329-347

COURSE NOTES:

- 1.** All course material will be posted to BRIGHTSPACE:
<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login?logout=1>. You are responsible for checking the course BRIGHTSPACE site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.
If you need assistance with BRIGHTSPACE site, go to BRIGHTSPACE Help page or log a ticket at <https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/contact-us.html>.
- 2.** Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.
- 3.** For questions about course content or technical issues, contact the course TAs.
- 4.** If you are absent for a test, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf
The Student Medical Certificate is available at
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
- 5.** Request for a re-grade must be made within three weeks of the test being handed back.
- 6.** In fairness to all students, there is no extra credit or re-weighting of grades; I do not reply to emails that ask for these. If you have a disability or some other special situation, I urge you to speak to both your student advisor and Accessible Education.

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Scantron Review

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Academic Counselling

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education

Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.