

San José State University
Department of Kinesiology
KIN 161, Section 01, Philosophical Perspectives of Sport
Spring 2022

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Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM, or by appointment (email for availability and scheduling)
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
Classroom:	Clark Building 324 (Online from 1/26/2022 - 2/10/2022)
Prerequisites:	KIN 70; KIN majors/minors only, or instructor consent.

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.

Canvas Learning Management System and SJSU One

All supplemental course materials can 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 throughout the semester.

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 Text

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

(Additional readings will be posted on Canvas under the corresponding module. See the course schedule for applicable dates and further details).

Technology Requirements (for Zoom/online sessions 1/26/22 - 2/10/22)

Students are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop, tablet, or phone) with a camera and built-in microphone in order to participate in Zoom classes. SJSU has a free equipment loan program available for students. For more, visit the following: <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/academic-tech/equipment-loaning/index.php>.

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have access to reliable WiFi during tests. If students are unable to secure reliable WiFi, they must inform the instructor, as soon as possible or at the latest one week before the test date to determine an alternative. See Learn Anywhere website for current WiFi options on campus: <https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/>

Zoom Classroom Etiquette (for Zoom/online sessions 1/26/22 - 2/10/22)

1. To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
2. Be mindful of background noise and distractions. Find a quiet place to attend class, to the greatest extent possible.
3. Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
4. Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
5. Position your camera properly. Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
6. Limit your distractions/avoid multitasking. You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your phone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).
7. If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should not suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

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 philosophical topics.

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 critical reflections (no late submissions accepted for quizzes, group discussions, and the extra credit opportunity) will be penalized -5% immediately and per day late after the initial missing of deadline. Assignments not submitted within 7 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.
4. Assignments will be collected via file upload on Canvas. Be sure to check Canvas regularly for due dates, assignment details, and assignment templates.
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 group discussions.
7. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted under any circumstance.
8. Email correspondence should include your full name, the class, and section you are inquiring about. 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.

Students are Not Allowed to Record Lectures Without Instructor Permission

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (<https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office.

Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Critical Reflections: 6 assignments worth 5 points each; 30 points total (5.3% / 32%).

Midterm: 1 assignment worth 17.5 points; 35 questions worth a half point (.5) each (19%).

Final Examination: 1 assignment worth 25 points; 50 questions worth a half point (.5) each (27%).

Group Discussions: 7 assignments worth 3 points each; 21 points total (3.2 % / 22%).

Extra Credit: Maximum of 3 points available (not counted in the tally below).

Total Points Available: 93.5

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

A+ 97% -100%

A 93% - 96%

A- 90% - 92%

B+ 87% - 89%

B 83% - 86%

B- 80% - 82%

C+ 77% - 79%

C 73% - 76%

C- 70% - 72%

etc.

Note: “.5” and above in final grade calculations are rounded-up. Example: A final tally of 86.5% rounds-up to 87% (B+). KIN 161 must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Remember: Assignments are expected by the posted due-date. Late critical reflections (no late submissions accepted for quizzes, group discussions, and the extra credit opportunity) will be penalized -5% immediately and per day late after the initial missing of deadline. Assignments not submitted within 7 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.

Assignment Specifics

Critical Reflections

You will be provided with six questions throughout the semester. Questions will be posted a minimum of one-week prior to due date. See the course schedule along with regularly checking Canvas for assignment due dates. Templates for each critical reflection with additional direction will be posted on Canvas under the appropriate weekly module. I am looking for concise, thoughtful, critical, and informed analysis regarding the reading from which the question is taken. Your goal for each reflection is to demonstrate objective understanding of the relevant course material along with a personal subjective interpretation/opinion of the question, topic, or theme of the question.

Two full paragraphs—no more, no less—are expected per each critical reflection (type written, 11 point font Arial font, double spaced, with one inch margins). Aim for a minimum of six sentences and a maximum of eight sentences per paragraph. I am not solely looking for a summary of the reading or a collection of direct quotes, rather, I am looking for informed and thoughtful responses. Opt to summarize and paraphrase when citing. A minimum of two clear and relevant APA style in-text citations (last name of author/philosopher and page number) to textbook/PDF reading material is required per each response. Feel free to include citations to material covered in other chapters/readings to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge, but make sure the citations are relevant to the question. Additional citation requirements will be disclosed on the corresponding template and may vary assignment-to-assignment.

Expected Grading Turnaround: 1-2 weeks

Satisfies PLO 1, 2, 4, & 5; CLO 1-8

Group Discussions

One of the goals of this course is to get you to think, write, and talk about sport in disciplined, thoughtful, informed, and creative ways. Your goal, in groups of about 5-6 students, is to freely explore issues assigned for your team to discuss. For most discussions, you will have around 45-60 minutes to complete the discussion, allowing for around 15-30 minutes of questions and

commentary as a class. Take note: The discussions are not a competition, but an opportunity to explore ideas with other people.

Discussion topics will be created in real-time, allowing for flexibility to discuss relevant and contemporary and somewhat controversial issues in sport and society as a whole. Templates with more detailed information will be provided and posted on Canvas.

Expected Grading Turnaround: 3-5 days

Satisfies PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5; CLO 1-8

Midterm Examination

35 questions worth a half point (.5) each; 17.5 points total.

The midterm examination will cover material from the following authors/philosophers: Johan Huizinga, Bernard Suits, John Loy, Klaus Meier, Plato, Descartes, Margaret Steel, Jason and Laurence Holt, Dennis Hemphill, Iris Marion Young, David Best, Robert Simon, and W.M. Brown. A midterm examination review will take place on Tuesday, 3/22.

Expected Grading Turnaround: 3-5 days

Satisfies PLO 1 and CLO 1-8

Final Examination

50 questions worth a half point (.5) each; 25 points total.

The final examination will be partially comprehensive, but 35 of the 50 questions will cover material from the following authors/philosophers: Esar Shvartz (Nietzsche), Nicholas Dixon, Craig Lehman, Simon Eassom, Leslie A. Howe, and Randolph Feezell. A comprehensive final examination review will take place on the last day of instruction, Thursday, 5/12.

Expected Grading Turnaround: 3-5 days

Satisfies PLO 1 and CLO 1-8

San José State University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available

student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

KIN 161 / Philosophy of Sport - Spring 2022 Course Schedule

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

Week/ Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings/ Requirements
1	1/27 Th. (Zoom)	Course Requirements and Responsibilities - Meet and Greet	Syllabus posted on Canvas
2	2/1 Tu. (Zoom)	Group Discussion #1	Template posted on Canvas
	2/3 Th. (Zoom)	Lecture: "The Nature and Significance of Play" by Johan Huizinga	Textbook pp. 1-17
3	2/8 Tu. (Zoom)	Lecture: "The Elements of Sport" by Bernard Suits	Textbook pp. 19-34
	2/10 Th. (Zoom)	Lecture: "The Nature of Sport: A Definitional Effort" by John W. Loy and "Triad Trickery: Playing With Sport and Games" by Klaus V. Meier <i>Critical Reflection #1 is due via file upload on Canvas by 11:59 PM.</i>	Textbook pp. 35-79 Template posted on Canvas
4	2/15 Tu.	Lecture: "The Separation of Body and Soul" by Plato and "The Real Distinction Between the Mind and Body of Man" by Rene Descartes	PDF posted on Canvas
	2/17 Th.	Group Discussion #2	Template posted on Canvas

Week/ Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings/ Requirements
5	2/22 Tu.	Lecture: "What We Know When We Know a Game" by Margaret Steel	Textbook pp. 81-91
	2/24 Th.	Lecture: "The Ideal Swing, the Ideal Body: Myths of Optimization" by Jason Holt and Laurence E. Holt Critical Reflection #2 is due via file upload on Canvas by 11:59 PM	Textbook pp. 93-105 Template posted on Canvas
6	3/1 Tu.	Lecture: "Cybersport" by Dennis Hemphill	Textbook pp. 107-125
	3/3 Th.	Lecture: "Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality" by Iris Marion Young	Textbook pp.127-149
7	3/8 Tu.	Lecture: "Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality" by Iris Marion Young (continued) Group Discussion #3	Textbook pp.127-149 Template posted on Canvas
	3/10 Th.	Lecture: "The Aesthetic in Sport" by David Best	Textbook pp. 153-178
8	3/15 Tu.	Lecture: "Good Competition and Drug-Enhanced Performance" by Robert L. Simon	Textbook pp. 201-213
	3/17 Th.	Lecture: "Paternalism, Drugs, and the Nature of Sports" by W.M Brown Critical Reflection #3 is due via file upload on Canvas by 11:59 PM	Textbook pp. 215-228 Template posted on Canvas

Week/ Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings/ Requirements
9	3/22 Tu.	Midterm Examination Review & Group Discussion #4	Review sheet and template posted on Canvas
	3/25 Th.	Midterm Examination Bring an 882-e Scantron, one sheet of notes (8.5 x 11, double-sided, minimum 8-point font) and a No.2 pencil	
10	3/29 Tu.	No Class - Spring Recess	
	3/31 Th.	No Class - Spring Recess	
11	4/5 Tu.	Lecture: "Nietzsche - A Philosopher of Fitness" by Esar Shvartz	PDF posted on Canvas
	4/7 Th.	Lecture: "Boxing, Paternalism and Legal Moralism" by Nicholas Dixon	PDF posted on Canvas
12	4/12 Tu.	Lecture: "Boxing, Paternalism and Legal Moralism" by Nicholas Dixon (continued)	PDF posted on Canvas
	4/14 Th.	Group Discussion #5 <i>Critical Reflection #4 is due via file upload on Canvas by 11:59 PM.</i>	Templates posted on Canvas
13	4/19 Tu.	Lecture: "Can Cheaters Play the Game" by Craig K. Lehman	Textbook pp. 229 - 238
	4/21 Th.	Lecture: "Playing Games With Prisoners Dilemmas" by Simon Eassom	Textbook pp. 239-259

Week/ Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings/ Requirements
14	4/26 Tu. 4/28 Th.	Lecture: "Playing Games With Prisoners Dilemmas" by Simon Eassom (continued) Group Discussion #6 <i>Critical Reflection #5 is due via file upload on Canvas by 11:59 PM.</i>	Textbook pp. 239-259 Templates posted on Canvas
15	5/3 Tu. 5/5 Th.	Lecture: "Gamesmanship" by Leslie A. Howe Lecture: "Gamesmanship" by Leslie A. Howe (continued) and "Sportsmanship" by Randolph M. Feezell	Textbook pp. 261-280 Textbook pp. 261-280 and pp. 281 - 297
16	5/10 Tu. 5/12 Th.	Lecture: "Sportsmanship" by Randolph M. Feezell (continued) <i>Extra credit is due via file upload on Canvas by 11:59 PM</i> Final Examination Review & Group Discussion #7 <i>Critical Reflection #6 is due via file upload on Canvas by 11:59 PM</i>	Textbook pp. 281 - 297 Template posted on Canvas Review sheet and templates posted on Canvas
17	5/20 F	Final Examination 9:45 AM - 12:00 PM Bring an 882-e Scantron, one sheet of notes (8.5 x 11, double-sided, minimum 8-point font) and a No.2 pencil	