

R.S. 2SP3/Anthropology 2EE3 Sport and/as Religion

Fall 2017 Mon. & Thurs. 9:30-10:20 a.m. ITB 137

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Office Hours: Mon. 10:45 a.m. – noon, UH 130

Tutorials: Thurs. 4:30-5:20 p.m. KTH 109; Fri. 9:30-10:20 a.m. KTH 104; Fri. 11:30-12:20 p.m. KTH 109; Fri. 12:30-1:20 p.m. KTH 109

Objectives and Overview:

This course examines the relationships between sport and religion, and poses the question of whether sport can be considered a form of popular or lived religion. We will investigate the ritual aspects of sport, the connections between social collectivities and sports teams, and sport as a meaning-making activity.

Learning Outcomes:

1. By the end of this course, students will be able to explain the relationship between social groups and the sacred.
2. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify, analyze and describe the religious dimensions of social interaction that takes place outside of formal religious institutions in the domain of sports.
3. By the end of this course, students will be able to reflect on the affective, ethical and material consequences of the heightened emotions generated through extraordinary social events in the domain of sports.
4. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify, analyze and describe individual religious experiences outside of formal religious institutions in the domain of sports.
5. By the end of this course, students will be able to: i.) recall and describe key examples of sports events with religious dimensions and: ii.) recognize those dimensions independently through the analysis of a sports event they have personally experienced as a spectator or participant.

Required Readings:

Journal articles and book chapters are available on the Avenue to Learn site.

Required readings for each week are listed on the syllabus below. There will be weekly online reading quizzes posted on Avenue to Learn.

Assessment:

Mid-Term Exam (in class Oct. 26):	20%
Online Weekly Reading Quizzes:	15%
Sports Event Analysis (due Dec. 4):	25%
Tutorial Participation:	15%
Final Exam (in December exam period):	25%

Mid-Term and Final Exam:

Both exams will include multiple choice questions and one essay question (students will be able to choose from two possible questions). These exams assess Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Tutorial Participation:

Teaching Assistants will take attendance and grade discussion participation at each tutorial.

Sports Event Analysis Essay

1500 words

Describe and analyze a sports event at which you have been a spectator (live, TV, Internet) or participant. Using the ideas covered in lectures, tutorials, audio-visual materials and assigned readings write a 1500 word essay in which you:

- a.) provide an overview description of the event,
- b.) identify and describe the religious dimensions of the event (such as collective effervescence, sense of the sacred, communitas and liminality, self-transcendence, rituals),
- c.) identify and describe the ethical issues associated with the event, such as insider-outsider distinctions, potential for pro-social and/or anti-social consequences,
- d.) provide a concluding paragraph that summarizes how the sports event illustrates the relationships between sport and religion.

This assignment assesses Learning Outcome 2: Students will be able to identify, analyze and describe the religious dimensions of social interaction that takes place outside of formal religious institutions. The assignment also assesses Learning Outcome 4, Part ii: Students will be able to recognize the religious dimensions of sports events independently through the analysis of a sports event they have personally experienced as a spectator or participant. In addition, this assignment assesses Learning Outcome 3: Students will be able to reflect on the effective, ethical and material consequences of the heightened emotions generated through extraordinary social events.

The essay should cite at least three of the assigned readings from the course, using MLA style guidelines for author-date in-text citations and a list of works cited. Hand in a hard copy of your essay in class on Mon. Dec. 4, and submit an electronic version to Turnitin.com (see instructions below).

Syllabus: Weekly Lecture Topics and Readings**Week 1**

Thursday September 7: Serious Sports

No Tutorials

Week 2

Monday September 11: Defining Religion

Thursday September 14: Religion as a Collective Experience

Tutorials: Read Serazio 2013 "The Elementary Forms of Sports Fandom: A Durkheimian Exploration of Team Myths, Kinship, and Totemic Rituals"

Week 3

Monday September 18: Liminality, Communitas, and Imagined Communities

Thursday September 21: College Football in the US South

Tutorials: Read Bain-Selbo 2009 "Conclusion: Sport as Religion? A Summary and Final Assessment"

Week 4

Monday September 25: US Football and American Civil Religion

Thursday September 28: Hockey Night in Canada

Tutorials: Read: Faulkner, 2001 "A Puckish Reflection on Religion in Canada" and Yukich, Stokes and Bellows 2014 "The Trouble with Tebowing"

Week 5

Monday October 2: Sport and Society in South Africa

Thursday October 5: Sport and Society in South Africa

Tutorials: Read Catsam, 2010 "The Death of Doubt? Sport, Race and Nationalism in the New South Africa"

View online: *Invictus* (available as eVideo, see McMaster Library catalogue)

Week 6

Monday October 16: The Hillsborough Disaster

Thursday October 19: UK Football and Commemoration

Tutorials: Read Brennan, 2009 "Public Mourning and the Legacy of Hillsborough – 20 Years On"

Week 7

Monday October 23: The Olympic Games
DVD: *"The Real Olympics"* Part I

Thursday October 26: **Mid-Term**

Tutorials: *"The Real Olympics"* Part II

Week 8

Monday October 30: US Inner-City Basketball as Religion

Thursday November 2: US Inner-City Basketball as Religion

Tutorials: Read: Woodbine, 2016 "Part I – Memory"

Listen online to CBC Radio Interview with Onaje Woodbine

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/q/schedule-for-tuesday-june-28-2016-1.3655659/onaje-woodbine-on-basketball-as-lived-religion-1.3655684>

Week 9

Monday November 6: The Church of Baseball

Thursday November 9: The Church of Baseball

Tutorials: Read: Shore, 1990 "Loading the Bases" and Boswell 1994, "The Church of Baseball."

Week 10

Monday November 13: Sports Icons: Deities and Missionaries

Thursday November 16: Tiger Woods

Tutorials: Read: Starn, 2011 "Out of the Woods," Prebisch 1993 pp. 44-57, and Baker, 2007 "Athletes for Allah"

Week 11

Monday November 20: Flow, Extreme Sports and Serious Leisure

Thursday November 23: Flow, Extreme Sports and Serious Leisure

Tutorials: Read: Sanford, 2007 "Pinned on Karma Rock: Whitewater Kayaking as Religious Experience"

Week 12

Monday November 27: Spirituality in Running and the Martial Arts

Thursday November 30: Spirituality in Running and the Martial Arts

Tutorials: Read: Jennings, Brown and Sparkes 2010, "It Can Be a Religion If You Want": Wing Chun Kung Fu as a Secular Religion"

Week 13

Monday December 4: Conclusion – It's All About Life, Death and Immortality

Tutorials: Review Session

Due in Class: **Sports Event Analysis Essay**

Bibliographic Information for Course Readings – Available on Avenue to Learn

Bain-Selbo, Eric. 2009. *Game Day and God: Football, Faith and Politics in the American South*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press.

Baker, William J. 2007. *Playing with God: Religion and Modern Sport*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Brennan, Michael. 2009. "Public Mourning and the Legacy of Hillsborough – 20 Years On." *Illness, Crisis and Loss* 17(3):261-264.

Boswell, Thomas. 1994. "The Church of Baseball," in *Baseball: An Illustrated History*, Geoffrey C. Ward, ed. Pp. 189-193. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Catsam, Derek Charles. 2010. "The Death of Doubt? Sport, Race, and Nationalism in the New South Africa." *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs* 11(2):7-13.

Faulkner, Tom. 2001. "A Puckish Reflection on Religion in Canada," in *From Season to Season: Sports as American Religion*, Joseph L. Price, ed. Pp. 185-202. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press.

Jennings, George, David Brown and Andrew C. Sparkes. 2010. 'It Can Be A Religion If You Want': Wing Chun Kung Fu as a Secular Religion." *Ethnography* 11(4):533-557.

Prebish, Charles S. 1993. "Religion and Sport: Convergence or Identity?" In *Religion and Sport: The Meeting of Sacred and Profane*. Charles S. Prebish, ed. Pp.44-57. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Sanford, A. Whitney. 2007. "Pinned on Karma Rock: Whitewater Kayaking as Religious Experience." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75(4):875-895.

Serazio, Michael. 2013. "Forms of Sports Fandom: A Durkheimian Exploration of Team Myths, Kinship and Totemic Rituals." *Communication and Sport* 1(4):303-325.

Shore, Bradd. 1990. "Loading the Bases: How Our Tribe Projects Its Own Image into the National Pastime." *The Sciences*, May-June, pp. 10-18.

Starn, Orin. 2011. *The Passion of Tiger Woods: An Anthropologist Reports on Golf, Race, and Celebrity Scandal*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Woodbine, Onaje. 2016. *Black Gods of the Asphalt: Religion, Hip-Hop, and Street Basketball*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Yukich, Grace, Kimberly Stokes and Daniela Bellows. 2014. "The Trouble With Tebowing." *Contexts* 13(2):50-55.

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Staff in the office of the Department of Religious Studies will not date-stamp or receive papers and other assignments.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

TURNITIN.COM

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

AVENUE TO LEARN

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

POLICY FOR MODIFYING A COURSE

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check her/his McMaster email and course websites (Avenue to Learn) weekly during the term and to note any changes.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY:

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account.

This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link.

MCMASTER STUDENT ABSENCE FORM

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report MEDICAL absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work (that is less than 25% of the course grade). Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period. You may submit a maximum of ONE Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation. If you are absent for more than 3 days, exceed one request per term, are absent for a reason other than medical, or have missed work worth 25% or more of the final grade, you MUST visit your Faculty Office. You may be required to provide supporting documentation. This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

How to Submit Work to Turnitin.com

Class ID: 15751797 Password: sportrel

Instruction page for turnitin:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/turnitin/students/howto.html>

All work that students submit must be their own work (original) and include proper citations when work is copied or paraphrased. Instructors and TAs have always employed various methods for detecting plagiarism. With the advent of the Internet and the corresponding explosion of available material for students, it has become time-consuming to employ the older detection methods. McMaster University has purchased Turnitin.com, which is a detection service. Students submit their assignment/work electronically to Turnitin.com where it is checked against the Internet, published works and Turnitin's database for similar or identical work. If Turnitin finds similar or identical work that has not been properly cited, a report is sent to the instructor showing the student's work and the original source. The instructor reviews what Turnitin has found and then determines if he/she thinks there is a problem with the work.

Go to www.turnitin.com Click "create a user profile" on the homepage and follow the instructions. Your instructor will have given you a class ID and class enrollment password which you will need. When you submit your assignment, print out and keep the digital receipt. If you are having difficulty, Turnitin has detailed instructions for students – click Training on the Turnitin homepage.