

TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO REVISION

21:510:305 Ancient Sport: From Olympians to Gladiators (Fall 2016)

Course Time & Location: Mon. and Wed: 4:00pm – 5:20pm; Conklin 446

Instructor & Contact Information: Prof. G.D. Farney (Office = Conklin 312;

Of. Phone = 973-353-3897 [+ Voice Mail]; Email = gfarney@rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm to 2:30pm, Wednesdays 12:00pm to 1:00pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course considers ancient forms of athletic contest and competition, including: Greek games held during the Olympic festival and other occasions; chariot-racing and circus contests in Greece and Rome; and Roman blood-sport (animal fights, gladiatorial contests and punishments of criminals in spectacles). We shall examine both the archaeological and literary evidence for such events, as well as the impact such competitions have had on our modern perceptions of sport and athletic contest.

Prominent literary sources we shall use include: selections of the poets Homer and Pindar, and a wide variety of short readings from other authors. We shall also consult a large number of digital images throughout the course. Each week students will read some of this primary source material along with modern scholarship supplementing it. Students will learn to read primary sources closely and analyze them in the historical context of their time. Students will also read these texts critically, assessing how well they function as evidence, and which kinds of sources seem hopelessly biased or more straightforward. Along with this critical reading, students will also regularly practice their writing skills in essay quizzes and two formal papers, and will have many opportunities to express their idea verbally in the class' in-class discussions.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

GRADING SYSTEM:

Grades for assignments will be assigned as a percentage. My grade scale is as follows: A = 100% to 92%; B+ = 91% to 87%; B = 86% to 81%; C+ = 80% to 76%; C = 75% to 70%; D = 69% to 60%; F = 59% and below.

YOUR GRADE WILL BE BASED ON:

1. Six Essay Quizzes: 40%
2. Two Papers: 50%
3. In Class Discussion: 10%

1. There will be **six essay quizzes**. They will target the reading material, and you will receive instructions about what to expect from them about a week before each quiz. I will drop the lowest of the 6 grades you receive.

2. Students will write **two 7 to 9 page papers** due over the course of the semester (listed below in Weekly Schedule). We will discuss the details of each when they are assigned.

3. At the end of every class, we will set aside time for **discussion** of the material. I will grade you on the frequency and quality of your participation.

OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING YOUR GRADE:

Attendance: Since class attendance and participation is essential to this course—given that much of the material you will be responsible for will only come from lectures, visual presentations and in-class discussion—absences should be kept to a minimum. Accordingly, the maximum number of unexcused absences allowed is two, beyond which there will be a grade penalty of -3% of the total grade for the course for each day past two. As per the policy of the Newark College of Arts and Sciences, any student who misses more than eight courses, **excused or not**, will receive a “no grade” for their work in the class. There will also be a grade penalty for persistent lateness.

Use of unapproved electronic devices is prohibited during class (this includes computers, phones, iPods, etc.). If I see you using such a device during class, I will mark you as absent for the day.

Policy on Academic Integrity: No act of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. All students are required to e-sign the “Plagiarism Agreement” on the course’s Blackboard site, listed under “Academic Integrity.” **I will not accept a quiz or paper from a student who has not e-signed this agreement.**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at .973.353.5375

or in the Office of Disability Services in Robeson Campus Center 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

COURSE MATERIALS:

REQUIRED BOOKS

- 1) Mahoney, A. Roman Sport and Spectacles: a sourcebook (Newburyport MA, 2001). [a collection and translation of ancient sources talking about Roman sports]
- 2) Miller, S.G. Arete. Greek Sports from Ancient Sources <3rd & Expanded Ed.> (Berkeley, 2004). [a collection and translation of ancient sources talking about Greek sports]

BLACKBOARD: This course is listed on Blackboard on the Rutgers-Newark website. Through Blackboard, you will be able to access various course documents and the e-readings. I will also post announcements regarding the course from time to time there, including any unanticipated class cancellations. You will need to make sure you have opened up a Rutgers email account, since your Rutgers address and password will be required to access Blackboard.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (E-Readings to be found on the Course's Blackboard site):

Wed 7 Sept: Introduction to Course

Mon 12 Sept: Earliest Days of Greek Athletics

Miller, p. 1-15

Wed 14 Sept: Archaic Greek Athletics; the Athletic Body

Miller, p. 16-22, 192-199

E-Reading: Kyle, "Archaic Greece," Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World p. 70-90

Mon 19 Sept: The Gymnasium: Athletics, Education and Greek Life

Miller, p. 89-104, 126-152

Wed 21 Sept: Brief History of Olympia and the Olympic Games

Quiz #1

Miller, p. 63-80, 201

E-Reading: Lee, "The First Olympic Games"

Mon 26 Sept: The Archaeology of the Olympia Sanctuary

E-Reading: Morgan, "The Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia"

Wed 28 Sept and Mon 3 Oct: NO CLASS

Wed 5 Oct: The Other Panhellenic Games: the Pythian, the Isthmian and the Nemean

E-Reading: Excerpts from Mind and Body

Mon 10 Oct: The Panathenaic Games

Quiz #2

Miller, p. 81-88

Wed 12 Oct: Track and Field Events I

Miller, p. 23-27, 39-50

Mon 17 Oct: Track and Field Events II; Introduction to the Poems of Pindar

E-Reading: Intro. to Pindar and Poems from Pindar on Track and Field Events

Wed 19 Oct: Combat Sports: Wrestling, Boxing and the Pancration

Miller, p. 27-39

E-Reading: Poems from Pindar on Combat Sports

Mon 24 Oct: Equestrian Events; Athletic Diet; Professionals vs. Amateurs

Paper #1 Assigned

Miller, p. 50-57, 165-191

E-Reading: Renfrew, "Food for Athletes and Gods"

Wed 26 Oct: Athletes as Heroes; Greek Women and Athletics

Quiz #3

Miller, p. 105-119, 153-159,

E-Reading: Kyle, "Females and Greek Sport," Sport and Spectacle in the Ancient World p. 209-221

Mon 31 Oct: Greek Athletics and the Nazis I

Film: Leni Riefenstahl's "Olympia: Festival of the Nation" (to be seen in class)

E-Reading: Hart-Davis, Hitler's Games p. 132-249 [start this now for discussion next time]

Wed 2 Nov: Greek Athletics and the Nazis II

E-Reading: Hart-Davis, Hitler's Games p. 132-249 [finish reading for this day]

Mon 7 Nov: Introduction to Roman Society and Spectacle I

Paper #1 Due

Mahoney, p. vii-xiv, 1-10, 54-64, 71-100

E-Reading: Gleason, "Elite Male Identity in the Roman Empire"

Wed 9 Nov: Buildings and Spaces for Roman Sport

Quiz #4

E-Reading: Dodge, "Buildings for Entertainment"

Mon 14 Nov: Chariot Racing and the Circus I

Mahoney, p. 24-36

E-Reading: Junkelman, "On the Starting Line with Ben Hur: chariot-racing in the Circus Maximus"

Wed 16 Nov: Chariot Racing and the Circus II

E-Reading: Cameron, "The Emperor and His People" Circus Factions, p. 157-192

E-Reading: Lee-Stecum, "Dangerous Reputations: charioteers and magic in fourth-century Rome"

Mon 21 Nov: Gladiatorial Contests I

Mahoney, p. 11-23

E-Reading: Carter, "Gladiatorial Combat: the rules of engagement"

Wed 23 Nov: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Mon Nov 28: Gladiatorial Contests II

Quiz #5

E-Reading: Weidemann, "The Gladiators: background and status" Emperors and Gladiators, p. 102-127

E-Reading: Aydas, "Gladiatorial Inscriptions from Stratonikeia in Caria"

Wed 30 Nov: Rebellion of Spartacus

Reading: Excerpts from Shaw, Spartacus and the Slave Wars

Mon 5 Dec: Beast Hunts; Naumachiae

Mahoney, p. 44-47

E-Reading: Kyle, "Arenas and Eating: corpses and carcasses as food?", Spectacles of Death in Ancient Rome, p. 184-212

E-Reading: Coleman, "Launching into History: aquatic displays in the early Empire"

Wed 7 Dec: Public Executions

Mahoney, p. 47-53

E-Reading: Martyrdom of Polycarp

E-Reading: Coleman, "Fatal Charades: Roman executions staged as mythological enactments"

Mon 12 Dec: Roman Women and Sports

Paper #2 Assigned

Mahoney, p. 65-70

E-Reading: Brunet, "Female and Dwarf Gladiators"

Wed 14 Dec: Roman Blood Sports and Hollywood

Quiz #6

Film: "Gladiator" (find and use a copy, or a copy is on reserve at the Dana Library, Media Reserve Room, 3rd Floor; **NB** you are responsible for seeing the film by class-time for discussion of it)

PAPER #2 DUE: Wed 21 Dec at 6:00pm. The paper should be sent as an attachment, sent to my email (gfarney@rutgers.edu). NB: YOU are responsible for getting it to me in a format I can read ON TIME; you may want to cut and paste the entire paper into your email message to me to ensure I get something before the deadline. Please only use .doc, .docx, or .pdf formats. I will reply to you by email to let you know that I got the paper and that I can access it