

## MINI SYLLABUS

Instructor:  
Juliana Uhuru Bidadanure,  
Stanford University  
(designed in 2016)

# The Ethics of Sports

## Week 1 – Ethics of Sports: An Introduction

- What is Ethics?
- What is Sport?
- What is the Ethics of Sports?
- Why should we care?
- What should we do?

\*Watch one of the films below. Prepare a couple of paragraphs discussing an ethical issue captured in the film you have chosen.

- *Concussion* (2015)
- *Invictus* (2009)
- *Moneyball* (2011)
- *The Program* (2015)
- *Senna* (2011)
- *He got game* (2007)
- *The Wrestler* (2008)
- *One Million Dollar Baby* (2005)
- *Ali* (2001)
- *The Loneliness of the Long-distance Runner* (1962)
- *Race* (2015)
- *Hoops dreams* (1994)
- *Looking for Eric* (2009)
- [List of top 10 sports documentary of The Guardian](#)

## Week 2 – The Value(s) of Sport

- Why do we value sport so much?
- What are the values of sport?
- What is the value of a sport for education?

### Tuesday:

\*James Keating (1964) "Sportsmanship as a moral category"

\*Julia Annas (2006) "Virtue Ethics"

### Thursday:

\*David Carr (2010) "What moral educational significance has physical education? A question in need of disambiguation" in *The Ethics of Sports: A Reader*.

\*Sandra Lynch, Daryl Adair and Paul Jonson (2014) "Professional Athletes and Their Duty to be Role Models" in *The Ethics of Sports: Essential Readings*.

### **Week 3 – Fairness in Sport**

- What is a fair game?
- What is wrong with cheating?
- Can we achieve fairness in sport?
- What is wrong with doping exactly?

#### Tuesday:

\*Sigmund Loland (2010) "Fairness in sport: an ideal and its consequences" in *The Ethics of Sports: A Reader*

\*Claudio Tamburrini (2010) "The hand of God" in *The Ethics of Sports: A Reader*

#### Thursday:

\*Andy Miah (2010) "Why not dope? It's still about the health" in *The Ethics of Sports: A Reader*

\*Mike McNamee (2010) "Whose Prometheus? Transhumanism, biotechnology and the moral topography of sports medicine" in *The Ethics of Sports: A reader*.

### **Week 4 – Big Money**

- Does money degrade sport?
- What is the state of corruption in sport?
- Are college athletes exploited?
- What should we think of the college admissions for athletes?

#### Tuesday: Exploitation

\*William Morgan (2010) "The moral case against contemporary American Sports" in *The Ethics of Sports: A reader*.

\*Barbara Fried (2017) "Punting Our Future: College Athletics and Admissions".

\*Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (2014) "College Athletes of the World, Unite": [available online here](#).

#### Thursday: Corruption

\*Christopher Lasch (2010) "The degradation of Sport" in *The Ethics of Sports: A reader*.

\*Robert Simon, Cesar Torres and Peter Hager (2015) "The Commercialization of Sport: Marketing and Corruption in Competitive Athletics" in *Fair Play*.

### **Week 5 – Differences and Inequalities**

- Why do we have gender distinctions in sport?
- Why do we have separate competitions for disabled athletes?
- What should we think of gender and disability testing?
- How to think about fairness in sport in general?

#### Tuesday: Gender

\*Robert Simon, Cesar Torres and Peter Hager (2015) "Gender Equity in Sport: What does justice require?" in *Fair Play*

\*Katrina Karkazis, et al. (2012) "Out of Bounds? A critique of the new policies on hyperandrogenism in elite female athletes".

Thursday: Disability

\*Ivi van Hilvoorde and Laurens Landeweerd (2010) "Disability or extraordinary talent: Francesco Lentini (three legs) versus Oscar Pistorius (no legs)" in *The Ethics of Sports: A reader*.

\*Jan Burns (2012) "Falling through the rabbit hole: Elite sports and people with intellectual disabilities."

**Week 6 – Violence, Health and Safety**

- Can fighting sports be ethical?
- What is the value of extreme sports?

Tuesday: Violence

\*Vertonghen et al. (2017) The organization and Regulation of Full-Contact Martial Arts.

\*One Million Dollar Baby (film)

Thursday: Health

\*Why are so many Base-jumpers dying? *National Geographic*: [available online here](#).

\*Concussions (film)

**Week 7 – Nationalism**

- How does sport relate to nationalism and patriotism?
- If sports national teams represent nations, then how should we think of competitions between them?
- Can sport help us become global citizens?
- Does sport reinforce stereotypes and global inequality?

Tuesday:

\*No readings

Thursday:

\*Toussaint Nothias (2014) Afro-pessimism in the French and British Coverage of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

\*Nathalie Hyde-Clarke et al. (2010) Nation-building and the FIFA world Cup, South Africa 2010

**Week 8 – The Ethics of Sports: A Conclusion**

- What have we learnt about the ethics of sports?
- What are the core dilemmas that we kept coming back to?
- If Sports is a mirror of our society, what can it teach us about justice

Tuesday:

\*Sigmund Loland (2014) Normative Theories of Sport. A Critical Review. in *The Ethics of Sports: Essential*

*Readings.*

Thursday:

\*No readings

### **Week 9-10 – Presentations**

- Conclusions: what have we learned about egalitarian and anti-egalitarian discourse?
- The methods of normative argumentation
- Multi-form inequalities.