

BCRE30 Ethics in Sport and Media Ethics

Semester: A

ECTS Credits: 5

Duration: 11 weeks

Contact Hours: 22 (Lectures and conference)

Quota: None

Prerequisite subjects: None

Beginning with an overview of traditions of ethics, this module treats two key areas of applied ethics. Sport in contemporary society has been described both as an expression of the highest human and social values, and as a legally secured parallel world of the elite pursuit of victories and medals. On the one hand, as a sphere of physical self-realization, social formation and of moral training in fairness, it is seen as an area with standards of excellence that can be closely aligned to ethics. On the other hand, individual sport stars and the institutions of organized sport have been subject to multiple enquiries and critiques: for example, on doping, corruption, sponsorship, the power of mentors and child protection. The variety of facets to the question of ethics in the domains of sport requires a multidisciplinary response. In order to connect to the necessary element of “field work”, an integral part of this module will be attendance in a conference on Ethics in Sport which will take place in the Trinity Long Room Hub on Saturday Nov 4th, 2017. It will feature some leading personalities in Irish sport of the past and present to give the practitioners’ perspective on ethics and sport. The concluding part of the module will deal with Media Ethics. At a time of “fake news” and of debates on the effects of social media, its importance is inescapable.

Module Learning Outcomes:

Evaluate how ethical issues in sport are shaped by the particular socio-political contexts of the time.

Assess the continuities and discontinuities between the present and the past by appraising the influence of the Greek, Corinthian and Olympic ideals.

Outline the principles and values stated in current ethics charters and relate them to current controversies in sport.

Identify traditions of ethical thought in the work of leading writers on the topic of ethics and sport, and locate them in relation to relevant developments in sport today.

Indicative Bibliography

Boxill, Jan (ed.), *Sports Ethics: An Anthology* (London: Blackwell, 2003)

Carlin, John, *Playing the Enemy – Nelson Mandela and the Game that Made a Nation*, London: Atlantic Books, 2008.

Kayser, Bengt, Mauron, Alexandre and Miah, Andy, “Current Anti-Doping Policy: A Critical Appraisal” [Review] *BMC Medical Ethics* 8 (2007) 2.

Loland, Sigmund, “Fairness and Justice in Sport” in C. R. Torres (ed.), *Bloomsbury Companion to the Philosophy of Sport* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014), 98-114.

McNamee, M. J. (ed.), *The Ethics of Sports: A Reader* (London: Routledge, 2010)

MacGregor, Oskar, *Performance-Enhancing Technologies in Sports: Ethical, Conceptual, and Scientific Issues. Sport, Ethics and Philosophy* 4 (2010) 106 – 108.

O’Gorman, Kevin, *Saving Sport: Sport, Society and Spirituality*, Dublin: The Columba Press, 2010

Pawlenka, Claudia, “Fair Play”, in Torres (ed.), *Bloomsbury Companion to the Philosophy of Sport*, 355-357.

Scally, John, “Does the Winner take it all?” *Doctrine and Life*, March, 2012, pp 46-56.

Simon, Robert L., *Fair Play: The Ethics of Sport*. (Westview Press, 2010).

Tamburrini, Claudio Marcello and Tännsjö, Torbjörn (eds), *Genetic Technology and Sport: Ethical Questions* (London: Routledge, 2005)

Teetzel, Sarah, "The Ethics of Enhancing Performance", in Torres (ed.), *Bloomsbury Companion to the Philosophy of Sport*, 115-130.

Assessment: One 3,000 word essay

Name of lecturer Dr. John Scally