One guiding argument of *Religion and the Body* is that our individual and collective bodies are defined by, dependent on and constructed within and across an interrelated network of discourses that seek to protect, target, evaluate and optimize our bodies. In *Religion and the Body*, we seek to analyze the placement and significance of our bodies, which are located and shaped by and within a web of authoritative sources of knowledge that seek to promote the mastery, purification, transformation, and redemption of the body.

Another assertion that guides this course is that the spheres of religion, sports, medicine and sexuality are mutually committed to the ordering, evaluating and controlling of our bodies. *Religion and the Body* is structured around three interrelated units: [1] Religion & Sports, which includes discussions on football; Zen and archery; racism and religion; baseball, purity and steroids; [2] Religion & Medicine; which includes units devoted to medicine in Early Christianity and Medieval Islam; contemporary theories and approaches towards the relationship between religion and medicine; medicine wizards in Myanmar; South Korean shamans; the healing way of Japanese Buddhist woman; the sacred use of peyote and the Native American Church; the COVID pandemic, medicine and religion [3] Religion & Sexuality, in addition to reading Michel Foucault’s *History of Sexuality* in this final unit, we will discuss Buddhist approaches to sexuality; early Christian literature on marriage and sexuality; contemporary responses to sexual, gender, and racial diversity in the Christian and Muslim traditions. Committed to an interdisciplinary and integrative approach, we seek to employ a range of historical, analytical and theoretical frameworks, which generate questions with divergent and interrelated insights into the study of the body and embodied lives across.

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

- [Religion and Sports](#)
- [Understanding Sport as a Religious Phenomenon](#)
- [The History of Sexuality](#)
- [Religion and Sports in American Culture](#)

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- [Religion and Medicine](#)
- [Religion and Sexuality](#)
- [Religion and the Body](#)

Learning Outcomes

Students will (learn):

- about the importance and limits of interpretive frameworks for evaluating the variegated relationships between religion and the body across the fields of sports, medicine and sexuality by employing several interdisciplinary lenses and approaches to the study of the body and bodies (e.g., historical, scientific, theoretical, theological, and literary approaches);
- to recognize, reflect upon and evaluate the various use of, and roles, that culture, gender and race play in shaping the ways the body and bodies are narrated in the fields of religion, sports, medicine and sexuality;
- practice and improve upon listening, reflecting, analyzing and responding to the various arguments, issues and topics raised in relation to the location of the body in religion, sports, medicine and sexuality;
- reflect upon how our cultural and social locations have shaped our interpretation of course readings;
- the value and practice the skill of listening and asking questions related to our embodied experiences;
- improve analytical reading and writing in response to readings, demonstrated by reflections and essays.

Attendance & Participation (100 Points)

Five percent of the overall grade is based on attendance, which includes active listening and participation during class time. Please note that after three unexcused absences, the participation/attendance grade will be dropped by 5 points and then with every subsequent absence another five points is subtracted until reaching zero points. Excused absences will be provided at my discretion depending on the circumstances (e.g., athletics, academic commitments and emergencies will be excused absences). Participation will be largely based on contributing to classroom conversations and/or attentiveness during class time.

Grading Attendance: Each absence brings a two point reduction from the 100 possible points available. By way of example, if a student missed 3 classes in the semester, the student would be deducted 6 points, and thus earn 94 points for their attendance grade. To account for your attendance, you need to register for our course on I-clicker. Here is the link to sign up: https://www.iclicker.com/ . The ITLE has some instructional videos - https://itle.okstate.edu/iclicker.html Once you have created an account with your OSU email, search for our class amongst the listings for Oklahoma State University. Our class is titled: Religion and the Body; our course number is: REL 2413.70692.

Seating Chart: OSU has instructed professors to use a seating chart throughout the semester. We will design a seating chart in the first week of the semester. Students will be asked to sit in the same seat throughout the semester. Attendance will be taken with I-clicker. The seating chart will solely be used for contact tracing.

OSU’s Policy on Wearing Masks: The following two statements have been provided by OSU legal counsel with regards to wearing masks inside the classroom and office:

“OSU encourages you to wear a mask indoors in public settings regardless of whether you are fully vaccinated, consistent with the current CDC recommendations. This is especially important in classrooms and laboratories because people are together for long periods of time. Wearing a mask during class not only protects you but also helps protect those around you who may be more vulnerable. This is a simple way we can look out for all
members of the Cowboy family. If you feel sick, do not attend class. Contact University Health Services at 405-744-7665 immediately and communicate with me as soon as possible about any work you miss.”
"This semester you can choose for office hours and/or advising appointments to be in-person or by zoom. For in-person appointments, you are strongly encouraged to wear a mask, as social-distancing is not possible in my office. I will be wearing a mask."

**Reading Quizzes (300 Points)**
Each of the 10 quizzes will be worth 30 points (total of 300 points). Each quiz consist of 10 multiple choice questions connected to the assigned readings/class lectures. Quizzes will be administered on Canvas. Students will have one hour from the moment they open the quiz to complete it. Quizzes will be open book, notes, etc.

**Essay: Football, Religion, the Body, and Friday Night Lights (200 Points)**
Twenty percent of overall grade is based on a 4–5 page essay-reflection which includes analysis on the concept of football as religion. In conversation with course readings, lectures and class discussions, students will write an interpretive essay that reflects upon football as religion and the role of the body in the movie *Friday Night Lights* (2004). The Religious Studies Student Organization will host a watch party. Alternatively, students may locate and watch the film on their own.

**Essay: Foucault’s History of Sexuality (200 Points)**
Twenty percent of overall grade will be based on the evaluation of a 4–5 page essay that uses Michel Foucault’s *History of Sexuality* in order to reflect upon one or more issues related to religion, sports, medicine and sexuality. Prompts and suggestions will be provided and discussed in our class time, however, students will also be invited to propose their own approach to employing Foucault to engage in a Religious Studies approach to interrogating the location of the body in religion, sports, medicine and sexuality.

**Final Exam (200 Points)**
Final exam will consist of three essay questions (one on each of the three units: sports, medicine and sexuality. Students will be asked to bring an unmarked exam book (often called a “blue book”), which may be purchased at the OSU bookstore, to class on the day of the final exam. At least one week prior to the final exam, students will be provided the same essays questions which will appear on the exam, which is scheduled for December 9th, 2:00–3:50 pm, in CLB 321.

**Submit All Assignments on Canvas**
All of the assignments must be submitted on Canvas.

**Late Work Policy**
It is important that we do our best to manage our time and turn our coursework in on time when possible. I understand that this may not always be possible, so, we will accept late work up to one week after due dates.
without any penalty. I am willing to accept late work up to the last day of classwork, however, there may be up to a 50% automatic deduction if late work reaches two weeks overdue.

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation:</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(100 Points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes:</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(300 Points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay on Friday Night Lights:</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(200 Points)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay on Religion and Sexuality:</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(200 Points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(200 Points)</td>
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**THE GRADE SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90–100</td>
<td>A = Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80–89.99</td>
<td>B = Very Good / Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70–79.99</td>
<td>C = Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60–69.99</td>
<td>D = Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.99 and below</td>
<td>F = Unsatisfactory</td>
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**ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

Thank you in advance for turning off and placing out of sight your cell phones, laptops and all other electronic devices prior to the beginning of class. Unless you are a designated note taker, the use of all electronic devices during class is prohibited. The use of cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices may result in an unexcused absence. I am grateful for your attention and participation during our time together.

**EXTRA CREDIT | RSSO (RELIGIOUS STUDIES STUDENT ORGANIZATION)**

Students can earn 5 extra credit points for each Religious Studies Student Organization meeting they attend this semester. Students will be required to check in with me (Matt Pereira) in order to receive credit and must attend the entire event. Religious Studies Student Meetings are held every other Thursday night, between 6:00 – 7:30 pm. The first RSSO meeting will be held on August 19th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, location to be announced.

**CALENDAR | OVERVIEW OF LECTURES, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Please note that the assigned readings should be completed prior to class on the assigned dates provided below. Other than the textbooks, readings are available on Canvas, which is noted after each reading by this symbol: [C].

**WEEK 1 | INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SPORTS**

8/17 Introduction to Course | Review of Syllabus | Why Study Religion and Sports


**WEEK 2**

**CASE STUDIES: RELIGION AND SPORTS (PART I)**

8/24


8/26


**Assignment Due:** Reading Quiz One

**WEEK 3**

**CASE STUDIES: RELIGION AND SPORTS (PART II)**

8/31


[3] Video: “Muslim Women Talk Hijab,” [https://youtu.be/5_BapO1SsMw](https://youtu.be/5_BapO1SsMw)

9/2


Assignment Due: Reading Quiz Two

WEEK 4  CASE STUDIES: RELIGIONS AND SPORTS (PART III)


WEEK 5  PURITY, STEROIDS AND BASEBALL AS THE NATIONAL PAST TIME


https://yalealumnimagazine.com/articles/3864

Class Discussion: On Baseball Memories

Assignment Due: Reading Quiz Three


**WEEK 6  FROM MUSCULAR CHRISTIANITY TO SOUL CYCLE AND SPIRITUALITY**


[4] Video: Power Team Promotional Video, [https://youtu.be/M0O3It3gBno](https://youtu.be/M0O3It3gBno)


**WEEK 7**  
**RELIGION AND MEDICINE IN THE CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM TRADITIONS**

9/28  


10/01  


Assignment Due: Reading Quiz Four

**WEEK 8**  
**REFLECTIONS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION & MEDICINE**

10/05  


Assignment Due: Reading Quiz Five

10/07  


**WEEK 9**  
**MEDICINE AND HEALING IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS**

10/12  


**Assignment Due:** Reading Quiz Six

10/14


**WEEK 10: NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICINE | PEYOTE, SHAMANS, AND HEALING**

10/19


[5] Video: Peyote and Healing at the Oeklevueha Native American Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, see [https://youtu.be/c0SgBbPgFGA](https://youtu.be/c0SgBbPgFGA)

**Assignment Due:** Reading Quiz Seven

10/21


**WEEK 11: MICHEL FOUCAULT’S THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY (PART I)**

10/26


**Assignment Due:** Reading Quiz Eight

10/28


**WEEK 12: MICHEL FOUCAULT’S THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY (PART II)**

11/02


11/04


**Assignment Due:** Reading Quiz Nine

**WEEK 13: SEXUALITY AND THE BODY IN THE BUDDHIST TRADITIONS**

11/09


**WEEK 14: MARRIAGE, SEXUALITY & GENDER IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY & CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC**

11/16


11/18


**Assignment Due:** Essay on Foucault’s The History of Sexuality

**Assignment Due:** Reading Quiz Ten

**WEEK 15: NO CLASSES**

11/23

No Class: Student’s Fall Break

11/25

No Class: University Holiday

**Assignment Due:** Research Paper on Religion and Sports

**WEEK 16: PRE-FINALS WEEK | SEXUAL DIVERSITY IN THE CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM TRADITIONS**

11/30


12/02


**Week 17: Finals Week**

12/09 Final Exam is scheduled from 2:00-3:50 PM (Location: CLB 321)

**Tentative Nature of Syllabus:** If necessary, this syllabus is subject to revision. Students will be held responsible for modifications distributed during class time, and/or communicated via an email correspondence, and/or provided on Canvas. Usually, all three of these mediums will be employed to communicate any changes.