

**Communications Studies (COMS) 401- Lecture 01**  
**Women in Sports**  
**Winter 2013**  
**TR 11:00-12:15**

**Instructor:** Lynne Perras  
**Office**  
**Location:** SS 230  
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**Office Hours:** Thursday 13:00-15:00

**Course Description**

This course will examine the public and private discourses surrounding women and sports. It will discuss the perceptions, stereotypes, and values of female athletes; in particular, media representations and public communication about gender and sport will be analyzed. The rhetorical communication surrounding women in sports will be highlighted in part to determine the impact of gender in the world of athletics

**Objectives of the Course**

To introduce students to the scholarship regarding the image of women in sports.  
To encourage students to think critically about the stereotypes and prejudices that exist in Western society regarding the female athlete.  
To empower students to be able to combat above stereotypes and prejudices.  
To improve writing skills, research methods, and presentation skills.  
To encourage cooperation in group settings.

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

The use of laptops will be limited to note-taking during lectures and films. Cell phones must be turned off for the duration of the class.

**Textbooks and Readings:**

Fuller, Linda K., ed. SPORT, RHETORIC, AND GENDER.  
Tewksbury, Mark and Debbie Muir. THE GREAT TRAITS OF CHAMPIONS, 2nd edition

**Assignments and Evaluation**

**I/EXAMINATIONS: (Value: 55%)**

1. **In-class exam** February 14, 2013 **30%**  
(This in-class exam will deal with definitions and short answers taken from the material in lectures, readings, discussions, films, and guest speakers.)
  
2. **Take-home exam** April 19, 2013 **25%**

(The take-home exam will consist of only an essay chosen from a list of suggested topics. The list of topics will be handed out to the class on April 16 and the corresponding essay must be handed in by April 19, by 4:30 p.m. at my office. Again, the essay will cover material in lectures, readings, discussions, films, and guest speakers.)

**II/GROUP PRESENTATIONS: (Value: 20%)**

Students will be divided into groups to research a topic area to be decided in consultation with the instructor. **15%** of the mark will be based on the group presentation before the class (every group member will receive the same grade). **5%** of the grade will be on the handout the group distributes to the class summarizing and highlighting the topic.

**Group 1 and 2 will present on January 29, 2013**

**Groups 3 and 4 will present on January 31, 2013**

**Groups 5 and 6 will present on March 5, 2013**

**Groups 7 and 8 will present on March 7, 2013**

**Groups 9 and 10 will present on March 26, 2013**

**III RESEARCH PAPER: (Value: 25%)**

Students will write a research paper on a topic related to women and sport. This paper will require the use of primary and secondary (academic) sources. The paper should be 6-8 pages long (double-spaced). Students must use acceptable referencing and bibliography. (APA, MLA, or Chicago Manual of Style are fine.)

**Due Dates:**

**Groups 1-5**

**March 21, 2013**

**Groups 7-10**

**April 11, 2013**

All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

## **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

## **Writing Skills Statement**

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

**Please use ONE of the grading charts (below) depending what you are using**

## **Grading System**

In this class, you will receive grades in the 4-point scale (2.7, 3.0, 3.3) *rather than* percentages. Sometimes you may receive grade points between letter grades. 3.5 is the mathematical mid-point between a B+ (3.3) and an A- (3.7) and 3.15 is the mid-point between a B (3.0) and a B+ (3.3), etc.

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

Letter Grade	Grading Scale	Grade Point Value (see <a href="#">U of C Calendar: Academic Standing</a> )
A+	96-100	4
A	90-95.99	4
A -	85-89.99	3.7
B+	80-84.99	3.3
B	75-79.99	3
B-	70-74.99	2.7
C+	65-69.99	2.3
C	60-64.99	2
C-	55-59.99	1.7
D+	53-54.99	1.3
D	50-52.99	1
F	0-49	0

## **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss

your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

### **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

### **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

### **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

To be handed out the first week of class.