

CLAS 0210/ ARCH 0200

Sport in the Ancient Greek World



- Prof. John Cherry
- Spring 2010
- MWF 12:00-12:50
- RIH 008

About you



- Name
- E-mail address
- Banner ID #
- Year
- Likely major, if known
- List any relevant previous courses
- Do you play any sports? At what level(s)?

'Welcome back to Greece!'

BRIAN MURPHY; The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece - With the five Olympic rings ablaze in the middle of a manmade sea, the Summer Games returned to their birthplace Friday in an epic homecoming that joined the gods of ancient Greece and modern sport.

The biggest parade of nations in the Games' history began with an announcer's cry of "Welcome back to Greece!" and culminated with a Greek windsurfing champion lighting the Olympic cauldron, which rose slowly at the end of a slender 102-foot arm to burn brightly above the stadium.



Scenes from Athens 2004 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony





“Sport is the most immutable and modern aspect of our heritage from the Greeks and, therefore, the stadium door is perhaps the most accessible means of entering the ancient world.” [Eric Segal]

A central social & ethical problem

- What is — or ought to be — the role of athletics in society?



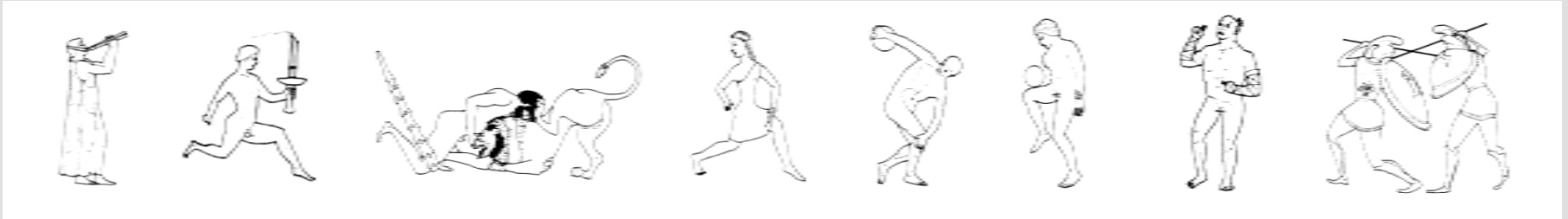
What ought to be the role of athletics in society?



Specifically...

- Should athletics be a required part of education?
- Should society support athletes as a form of mass entertainment?
- Does the popularity of athletes lead to an over-emphasis on athletics and athletes?
- Is cheating an inherent part of the athletic scene?

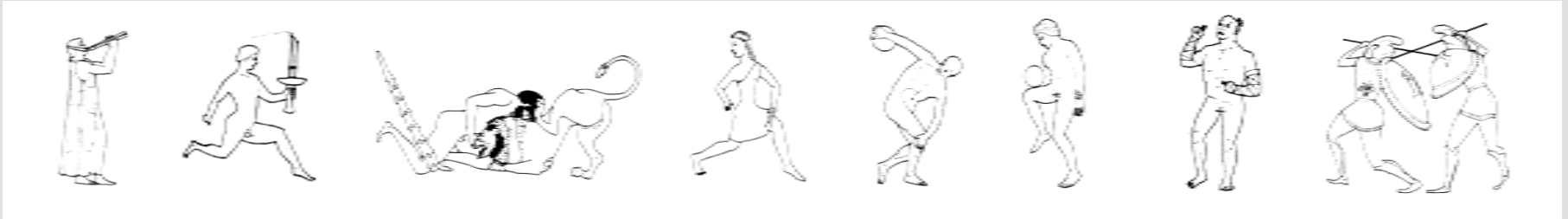
What ought to be the role of athletics in society?



and...

- Should women be allowed full participation in sports, and on a level equal to men?
- Are competitive sports more harmful than beneficial?
- Do violent sports (boxing, gladiatorial combat) have any place in “civilized” society?
- Do sports build character?

What ought to be the role of athletics in society?



and, comparatively...

- How far were these questions also of relevance to the ancient Greek world?
- What answers did the Greeks give?

The Syllabus...

and all other documents, assignments,
word-lists, website URLs, Powerpoint
presentations, and specimen
exam questions you will need...
will be posted on the course wiki at:

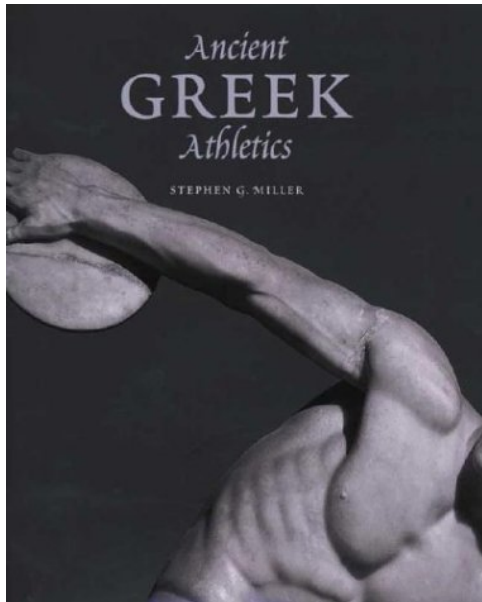
<http://proteus.brown.edu/sportancientgreek10/home>

Grades will be based on:

- take-home Midterm Exam (20%, issued March 12, due March 15)
- Final Exam (25%)
- three short quizzes (5% each, Feb. 9, Mar. 26, and Apr. 16)
- one Internet-based assignment (10%, due Mar. 22)
- one short (8-10 pages) piece of written work (20%, due May 7)
- Attendance, active participation, office hours (10%)

Textbooks

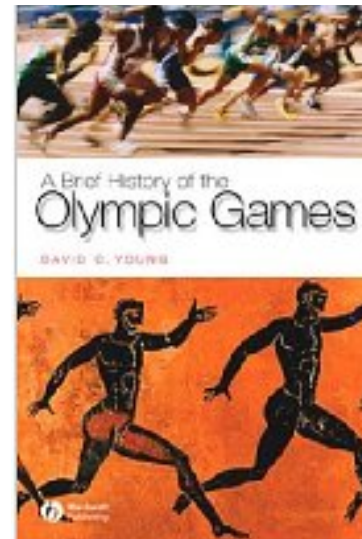
Miller



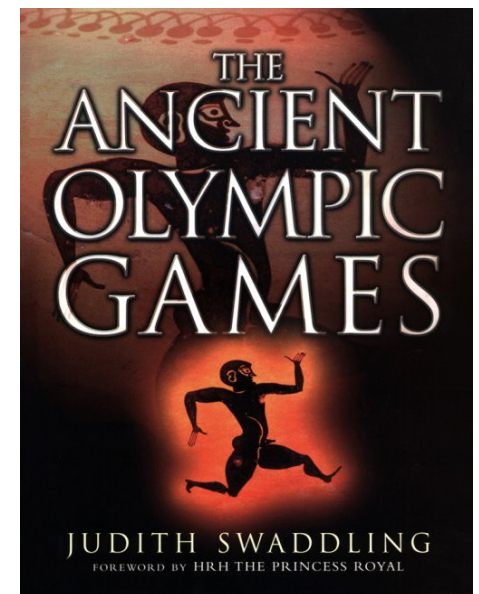
Arete



Young



Swaddling



All textbooks available at
The Brown Bookstore

True or False?

1. The ancient symbol of the Olympic Games was five interlocked rings, just like today
2. Then as now, the Olympic Games were open to competitors of all nations and races
3. Both men and women competed in the ancient Olympic Games
4. The ancient games always began with the lighting of the sacred Olympic flame
5. In the ancient Olympics, you could tell the competitors from different states by their distinctive uniforms and flags

6. In Antiquity, winter games were held every second year on the slopes of Mt. Olympus

7. Ancient athletes made no money at the Games, competing only for glory and an olive wreath

8. The ancient Olympic marathon race was introduced to memorialize a famous runner at the Battle of Marathon

9. The centennial games of the modern era were celebrated in Atlanta in 1996. For how roughly how many years did the ancient games run?

10. War caused the cancellation of the modern Olympics in 1916, 1940, and 1944. How often do you think they were cancelled in Antiquity?