GSWS 319-4: Sport through a Feminist Lens

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Lecture: Wednesdays 9:30 - 13:20; WMC 2532

Course Description:
Consider the following sport “moments”: the persistence of sex-testing that targets female athletes; US athletes kneeling during the national anthem to demonstrate support for the Black Lives Matter movement; continued efforts to change racist team names and mascots; disputes over inequitable resource allocations for men’s and women’s teams; protests in Brazil during the World Cup and Rio Olympics. Analyzing these disparate examples requires asking how relations of power inhabit and become manifest in sport: in its institutions, spaces, media coverage, and popular discourse. This course addresses this and related questions to interrogate the social investment in sport as a “neutral” site where athletic excellence is performed and consumed. We will examine a variety of case studies to elicit discussion and analysis of the role that sport plays in: reinforcing and challenging social relations; urban economies (especially related to leisure and tourism); and nationalism and globalization.

Educational Goals:
Students will explore the values embedded in sport as a social institution and will examine how these values become manifest and are disrupted. Students will also develop an understanding for how scholars critically examine and interpret the role of sport in society.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Various texts (journal articles, book chapters) and similar content (memoirs, podcasts, etc.) available on Canvas and/or via SFU library databases.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Short writes (30%)
Fieldwork analysis (20%)
Midterm examination (20%)
Take-home final exam (30%)

Prerequisite: 30 units including three units in GSWS or WS or GDST.