From “survival of the fittest” to “winning isn’t everything: it’s the only thing”, the concept of competition has been given primacy as an explanation of the way in which human society operates. In this course, we will consider the relationship between the creation of an ideal/virtue of competition, and the maintenance of marginalization.

The course will deal with three main themes:

1. The nature of competition and the constructed risks of weakness,
2. The “competition system” as mutually-supportive worldviews (examples from sports, science, economics, fine arts, law and individual development),
3. Alternatives.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**


Selected readings and books available on reserve.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**


Fleck, L. 1994. *Just caring: Oregon, health care rationing and informed democratic


**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Evaluation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group project</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**DESIGNATED CREDIT:**

Students can apply this course toward 3 upper division credits in the Liberal Studies Certificate.