

## Course Description

Sept. 10, 2015

**The Arts & Athletics**  
**Spring semester, 2016**  
**ARAD 3550**  
**Tues / Thurs 12:30 – 1:45 PM**  
**Instructors George Sampson, MFA and Lindsey Hepler, MA**

Course # 10 in a non-repeating series: The Arts in Context with a different context each Spring

The course is designed as a broad consideration of multiple issues surrounding the Arts and Athletics. With guest speakers, artists and participatory learning activities, we will investigate some of the many points of contact between these two highly visible public realms.

We will consider how society treats artists and athletes from many angles and issues: Conformity vs. non-conformity, societal expectations from activities in either realm, including by gender, race, class, sexual orientation and other perceptual sign-posts, notions of play and fame and money, of self-identity and how this theme plays out among fans and participants alike. Other issues will focus on individual vs. collective effort, the team vs. the cast, for example; and individual efforts (tennis, the soliloquy) and the pinnacles possible with each endeavor.

The Arts in Context series and this class in particular has as active learning goals:

1. Understand roles of the Arts in society through examples and creative possibilities.
2. Develop skills of self-reflection to identify the roles we play in the sport/art axis.
3. Critically examine the role of both Arts & Athletics in your own personal experiences
4. Analyze / critique factors influencing and illustrating the role of the artist & athlete in life in a variety of cultures around the world and throughout time.
5. Develop an empathetic stance regarding athletes and artists on Grounds.
6. Develop students' own opinions about these interconnected practices.
7. Help develop more sophisticated thought patterns concerning these arenas in life.

Content for The Arts & Athletics will navigate between all these variegated inputs from human populations around the globe and over time.

Some anticipated issues of the Arts & Athletics:

- The Western cultural and religious heritage as expressed in the Olympic movement
- Non-Western experiences as illustrated by Arts and Athletics from around the globe
- Construction of an identity – as fan or participant – its modern meaning and narrative
- How Play enters into both realms – does the 10,000 hour rule apply equally?
- Adoration and the Ideal – from the Olympics to FIFA & City Opera to the Corcoran