

Philosophy of Sport: some key questions

Start date	24 th June 2018	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr. Alexander Carter	Course code	1718NDX038

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings
Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
For further information on this course, please contact clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Dr. Alex Carter was awarded his PhD in Philosophy by the University of Essex in 2015. Before this, Alex studied Philosophy & Ancient History at the University of Wales, Swansea and Philosophy at the University of Bristol. Alex has taught on a range of subjects including Ethics, History of Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. He has worked at the Institute of Continuing Education since 2015 as Academic Director for Philosophy and as a Panel Tutor.

Alex's teaching method invites students to feel the "pain of the problem", i.e. to recognise the very real ways in which philosophical problems affect our lives. Accordingly, Alex is most keen to offer his support to philosophical projects that, not only inform contemporary debates, but actively affect change. Alex's ongoing research interests include the theology of Simone Weil and Ludwig Wittgenstein's ethical philosophy.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	The rules of the game
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	A fair degree of accuracy?
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Equality in sport
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Is winning everything?
16:45	Day-school ends

Aims:

By engaging in philosophical debate, critically assessing arguments and evidence and asking probative questions students will flex their philosophical muscles. It is hoped that, by the end of the Day School, students will come to appreciate sport (and philosophy) in a new light. The course is open to all and ought to be of particular interest to those who have had no prior experience studying Philosophy.

By working solo and in teams, students will flex their philosophical muscles by tackling difficult questions, serving up arguments and volleying possible responses. Moreover, it is hoped that, by the end of the Day School, students will come to appreciate sport in a new light.

Content:

The Day School will begin by asking a deceptively straightforward question, "What is a game?" This question has great significance in the history of philosophy and remains a pertinent question today (e.g. "Is Bridge a sport?"). Our second session will ask still another deceptively straightforward question, "Does making a game more accurate make it any fairer?" We will also consider whether or not it is really cheating if the referee/umpire doesn't see it. In our penultimate session we will reflect as a group on equality within sport, in particular gender equality. Should we seek greater gender equality in sport or accept segregation as being "for the greater good"? In closing, we will explore the, arguably, quintessentially British characteristic of sportsmanship. What, if anything, does sport have to teach us about ethical behaviour or is sport itself ethically dubious?

Presentation of the course:

The Day School will be comprised of formal lectures incorporating interactive presentations and discussion sessions. Throughout each session, students will be invited to reflect, comment and pass judgement on the ideas introduced.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- appreciate new and illuminating aspects of sport.
- apply philosophical methods to new and unusual topics.
- critically assess a wide range of philosophical and ethical problems.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Steven Connor	<i>A Philosophy of Sport</i>	Reaktion Books, 2011
Mike McNamee & William J. Morgan	<i>The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of Sport</i>	Routledge, 2015
Luigi Pirandello	"The Rules of the Game" in <i>Three Plays: The Rules of the Game, Henry IV, Six Characters in Search of an Author</i>	Methuen, 1985
Emily Ryall	<i>Philosophy of Sport: Key Questions</i>	Bloomsbury Sport, 2016
Ludwig Wittgenstein	<i>Philosophical Investigations</i> (in particular aphorisms 2-7, 23 & 66)	Blackwell, 1991

Website addresses

- How Hawk-Eye is Destroying Tennis - <http://www.ozy.com/immodest-proposal/how-hawk-eye-is-destroying-tennis/60775>
- Is Gender Segregation in Sports Necessary? - <https://howwegettonext.com/is-gender-segregation-in-sports-necessary-dc188150f242>
- News archive: High Court Rules Bridge is not a Sport - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34537024>
- News archive: It's Time for Referees to Explain Decisions - http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/jackross/2010/10/its_time_for_referees_to_expla.html

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 21 September 2017