

Phil 3731 Philosophy of Sport

Class Number 54102 Section MW12 Mon, Wed 12:50 – 2:05pm

Instructor: Samir Chopra

Email: schopra@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Sport is a popular human pastime; most people, at some point or the other in their lives, will play or “follow” a sport. It is also big business, and for the sports “fanatic” it can be an all-consuming passion. Sports can also be the target of withering critique, as when social critics find something amiss in the idea of athletes making millions of dollars while social workers live in semi-poverty.

In this class we will engage in a serious philosophical scrutiny of sport. We will ask foundational questions such as: What is a game? What is play? What is sport? We will also subject questions that invariably come up in discussions of sports to a philosophical examination. These questions can be ethical (sportsmanship, fair play, the use of performance enhancing drugs, violence), aesthetic (the appreciation of movement, human bodies, and sporting practices) or political (racial divides, gender discrimination, nationalism).

For more information, contact Professor Samir Chopra at schopra@brooklyn.cuny.edu.