Franklin College of
Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CURRICULUM REQUEST FORM

Please complete a separate request for each curriculum item being submitted. Each request should include either a WORD or PDF file of the curriculum item being reviewed. This form along with the file should be emailed to Kris Petti at pettik@uga.edu.

Date: Aaron Meskin

Department/Institute/Program: Department of Philosophy

Contact Person: Aaron Meskin

Email Address: Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu

Curriculum Item Request: Certificate in Sports Humanities

Please provide a justification for this request: The proposed certificate will provide the opportunity for students to critically examine sports as part of human life through a variety of disciplinary approaches. By taking advantage of existing courses in the humanities and social sciences across multiple colleges, the multidisciplinary curriculum offers an engaging and intellectually robust educational experience. Upon successful completion, students will possess knowledge and skills sought after by employers in sports-related fields (sports business, sports law, sports media, athletic departments, physical therapy, etc.), giving them a competitive edge in the job market.

As Department Head, you are affirming that the department procedures have been followed for approval with your unit.

Aaron Meskin 4/7/2026

PROPOSAL FOR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Date: March 31, 2026

School/College/Unit: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department/Division: Philosophy

CIP: 31050800

Certificate Title: Sports Humanities

Effective Term: Fall 2027

Which campus(es) will offer this certificate? Athens

Level (Undergraduate, Graduate, or Post-Baccalaureate): Undergraduate

Program Abstract:

The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Sports Humanities will provide the opportunity for students to critically examine sports as part of human life through a variety of disciplinary approaches. By taking advantage of existing courses in the humanities and social sciences across multiple colleges, the multidisciplinary curriculum offers an engaging and intellectually robust educational experience.

Participants will gain familiarity with, and knowledge of, ethical frameworks used for evaluating issues related to sports. They will also come to understand the place of sports in both the contemporary world and the past. Overall, the program emphasizes the significance of understanding sports in their cultural, ethical, historical, religious, and social contexts.

Upon successful completion, students will possess knowledge and skills sought after by employers in sports-related fields (sports business, sports law, sports media, athletic departments, physical therapy, etc.), giving them a competitive edge in the job market.

1. Purpose and Educational Objectives

State the purpose and educational objectives of the program. How does this program complement the mission of the institution?

The Undergraduate Certificate in Sports Humanities provides students with an interdisciplinary framework for the critical study of sport in their cultural, ethical, historical, religious, and social contexts. The program formalizes a coherent pathway through existing upper-division courses that examine sport not merely as competition or entertainment, but as a powerful institution that shapes and reflects identities, values, institutions, and public life. The certificate is designed to

deepen students' analytical and interpretive skills by engaging sports through humanistic and social scientific inquiry. It offers a structured opportunity for students from diverse majors to examine ethical debates, historical developments, media representations, religious meanings, and artistic expressions connected to sport.

The educational objectives of the Undergraduate Certificate in Sports Humanities are to:

- Develop students' ability to analyze sport using interdisciplinary theories and methods drawn from the humanities and social sciences.
- Strengthen students' capacity for ethical reasoning and critical evaluation of social and political issues related to sport.
- Cultivate historical and cultural literacy by situating sport within broader social, religious, and global contexts.
- Enhance students' written, oral, and creative communication skills through advanced analytical work.
- Encourage integrative thinking across disciplines in preparation for professional careers, public engagement, or graduate study.

The proposed certificate is aligned with the University of Georgia's 2025 Strategic Plan in that it supports the University's strategic directions of promoting excellence in teaching and learning, growing innovation, and strengthening partnerships with communities. The certificate would advance these objectives by organizing existing coursework into a formal interdisciplinary program that enables students to examine the historical, cultural, ethical, and representational dimensions of sport. In doing so, the program would make effective use of existing instructional strengths, expand opportunities for integrative undergraduate learning, and provide an additional framework for connecting academic study to issues of local, national, and global significance. The plan specifically identifies as a priority promoting collaboration among academic units, which this certificate exemplifies.

2. Need for the Program
Explain why this program is necessary.

The proposed certificate is intended to address an identified curricular gap by creating a coherent interdisciplinary framework through which undergraduate students may examine sport from humanistic perspectives. At present, students may encounter individual courses related to sport and culture, but no formal certificate program exists that organizes such coursework into a unified and academically focused area of study. There is an existing Undergraduate Certificate in Sports Media offered by the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications, but this program focuses on preparation for a career in sports media. The proposed Undergraduate Certificate in Sports Humanities would provide students with a structured opportunity to engage the historical, cultural, ethical, and representational dimensions of sport while making effective use of existing courses and faculty resources. As such, the program would expand undergraduate curricular offerings, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and support student interest in academically rigorous and professionally relevant humanities-based study.

The proposed certificate is additionally supported by the alignment between humanities-based instruction and the knowledge and skills associated with a range of sports-related professional

pathways. National career-readiness frameworks identify competencies such as communication, critical thinking, and teamwork as essential outcomes of undergraduate education.[1] Federal labor data further indicate that study in the humanities develops writing, critical thinking, and related capacities valued by employers across occupational sectors.[2] These outcomes are directly applicable to professional fields connected to athletics, including communications, media, development, administration, and student support, all of which require strong analytical, interpretive, and public-facing communication skills.[3,4] Accordingly, the proposed certificate would not only expand opportunities for humanistic study of sport, but also provide students with transferable competencies relevant to a broad range of careers in and around athletics.

We acknowledge that there are many established humanities program at the university and that the courses in the proposed certificate already exist. Nevertheless, the Sports Humanities certificate addresses an identified curricular gap at the university. Current sports-related humanities courses remain dispersed across departments and colleges and do not form a coherent pathway for students. As a result, students interested in sport as a humanistic subject have no formal mechanism to connect these perspectives into a sustained program of study. The certificate would fill this structural gap by organizing existing faculty expertise and coursework into an interdisciplinary credential that is academically rigorous, administratively efficient, and responsive to student interest.

a. Semester/Year of Program Initiation: Fall 2027
b. Semester/Year of Full Implementation of Program: Fall 2027
c. Semester/Year First Certificates will be awarded: Fall 2027
d. Annual Number of Graduates expected (once the program is established): 83
e. Projected Future Trends for number of students enrolled in the program:

This certificate is of interest to a wide range of students from a number of colleges, as evidenced by the survey results in 3A. As described below, we surveyed 213 students from a

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[1] National Association of Colleges and Employers, *Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce* (December 2025), identifying communication, critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, professionalism, and equity and inclusion among core competencies for college graduates. https://www.naceweb.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2025/career-readiness/competencies/nace-career-readiness-competencies-december-2025

[2] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Field of Degree: Humanities Employment and Wages," *Career Outlook* (2025), noting that humanities study helps develop "critical thinking, writing, and other skills that employers seek for the workplace." https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2025/data-on-display/field-of-degree-humanities-employment-and-wages.htm

[3] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, "Public Relations Specialists," updated 2025, projecting 27,600 openings per year on average from 2024 to 2034 in a field centered on organizational communication and public image. https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/public-relations-specialists.htm

[4] U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, "Fundraisers," updated 2025, describing responsibilities that include designing promotional materials, increasing public awareness, and crafting persuasive fundraising messages. https://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/fundraisers.htm

variety of majors who were either taking introductory philosophy courses or saw an announcement of the survey in Terry College. For an initial highly conservative estimate, the we are estimating that 1% of the students in the following six majors listed below (Finance, Psychology, Management Information Systems, Advertising, Biology, and Computer Science) would enroll in the certificate. (As described below, these were the majors that had the most number of student respondents expressing a high degree of interest in the program.) As of Fall 2025, there were 8,383 students in those six majors. One percent of that total would be 83 students. If this certificate program shows growth over the next five years where two percent of students in those majors apply for the certificate program, the estimated number of enrollment would increase to approximately 160-170 students. Note, again, this is a highly conservative estimate that only focuses on 6 majors.

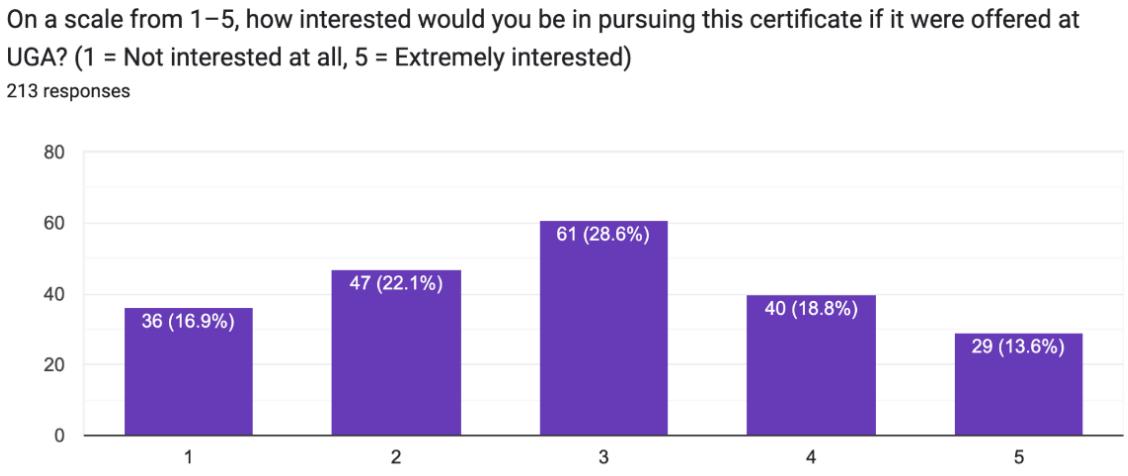
3. Student Demand

a. Provide documentation of evidence of student demand for this program, including a student survey.

Survey

A survey was posed to students from a variety of majors in introductory philosophy courses and in Terry College. Out of 213 students, 69 (32%) expressed a significant degree of interest; that is, they selected '4' or '5' on a scale from (1) = Not interested at all, to (5)= Extremely interested.

Total responses: 213



69 students expressed a high degree of interest in the program. Because the students who answered the survey came from a very wide variety of majors, we have decided to focus on the six most frequent majors of the respondents who indicated a high degree of interest in the certificate (i.e., 4 or 5). We believe that these six majors would be the most likely to enroll in the program.

Finance – 9 of the students who chose '4' or '5' had a major or intended major of Finance

Psychology – 7 students

Management Information Systems – 5 students

Advertising – 3 students
Biology – 3 students
Computer Science – 3 students

Students were asked to list the aspects of a certificate program like this that would interest them in a free form response. Aspects of the certificate program that interest students most were:

1. **History of Sports:**
   Students are highly interested in exploring the origins, evolution, and cultural development of sports beyond surface-level fandom.
2. **Philosophy and Ethics of Sports:**
   Many are drawn to the intellectual dimension—examining identity, meaning, culture, and ethical issues in sport rather than just performance or business.
3. **Media and Behind-the-Scenes Perspectives:**
   Students are curious about how sports are represented, marketed, and consumed, including storytelling, branding, and media influence.
4. **Interdisciplinarity:**
   The blend of history, philosophy, media, and culture appeals to students who value cross-disciplinary learning and broader perspectives.
5. **General Passion for Sports:**
   For many, simple enthusiasm for sports and sports culture makes the certificate personally engaging and exciting.

The certificate addresses all five of these aspects. Aspect 1 can be pursued in CLAS 3030, HIPR 2200, and HIST 3755. Aspect 2 will be addressed in PHIL 3300. Aspect 3 is addressed in SPTM 3800. The program is a model of interdisciplinarity (aspect 4), and we believe that all courses will satisfy those with a passion for pursuing a sports-related career (aspect 5).

b. Provide evidence that demand will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollment.

We invited 336 students taking Philosophy courses to answer the survey. This was our main pool of subjects. (The student worker also distributed surveys informally to a small number of Terry students.) 213 responded to the survey and 69 of those expressed strong interest in the program. As mentioned earlier, if 1% of students in the top six majors listed above apply for the certificate program, the estimated number of enrollments would be 83 students. Since this is only six majors, we expect the number to be higher. This estimate provides evidence for sufficient enrollment to maintain this certificate program.

4. Program of Study

a. Provide a detailed program of study for the certificate program.

Required Course (3 hours)

PHIL 3300, Philosophy of Sports and Games (3 hours)

Elective Courses (9 hours)
Choose any three of the following:

ANTH 2700, Anthropology of Sport (3 hours)
CLAS 3030, Ancient Sport (3 hours)
HIPR 2200, Sports Heritage (3 hours)
HIST 3755, The History of Sport (3 hours)
KINS(AFAM) 3580, Sport and the Black Culture (3 hours)
RELI 3040, Religion and Sports (3 hours)
SOCI 3740, Sociology of Sport (3 hours)
SPTM 3800, Sports, Media and Society (3 hours)
THEA 2140, Athletes and Artists: The Drama of Sports (3 hours)

b. Identify any new courses created for this program
No new courses are needed for this certificate program.

Total = 12 hours

5. Model Program and Accreditation

a. Identify any model programs, accepted disciplinary standards, and accepted curricular practices against which the proposed program could be judged. Evaluate the extent to which the proposed curriculum is consistent with these external points of reference and provide a rationale for significant inconsistencies and differences that may exist.

The University of Pittsburgh offers a Sports Studies Certificate that provides students the "opportunity to engage, learn, and think critically about sport as part of the human experience from multidisciplinary approaches." The program requires students to take a gateway course that functions as "an expansive, multi-disciplinary overview of sport" and then five other courses, including electives such as the History of Sports, Ethics and Sport, and Sociology of Sports. Arizona State University offers a Sports, Culture, and Ethics Certificate which is described as a "cross-disciplinary inquiry into the social, ethical and cultural influence of sports in society." It requires two courses—Sports Ethics and either Race, Gender and Sport or Sports in United States History—as well as four electives, which include courses such as History of College Sports, Religion and Sports, and Sociology of Sport. The University of Notre Dame offers a 15-16 credit minor in Sport, Media, and Culture, which "invites students to examine the cultural politics of sport from a scholarly point of view, and to practice sport with an eye toward human dignity and the common good." It has one required course—Sports and American Culture—and a wide-range of electives including Ethics in Sport, Football in America, and History of American Sport.

The proposed certificate requires 12 credit hours rather than 15-16 (Notre Dame) or 18 (Arizona State and Pittsburgh); however, the faculty think this may be an advantage for UGA students since it will facilitate completion of the program .

b. If program accreditation is available, provide an analysis of the ability of the program to satisfy the curricular standards of such specialized accreditation.

No accreditation program is offered for multidisciplinary sports studies programs.

6. Student Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the Sports Humanities Certificate will be able to:

1. **Analyze sport as a central human activity and cultural practice** using theories and methods from the humanities and social sciences.
2. **Evaluate ethical, social, and political issues in sport**, including race, identity, religion, media, and power, through evidence-based and interdisciplinary analysis.
3. **Synthesize perspectives on sport across cultures and historical periods** to explain how sport reflects, shapes, and contests social values and cultural meaning.
4. **Communicate critical analyses of sport effectively** in written, oral, or creative forms using appropriate scholarly sources and disciplinary conventions.

7. Assessment and Admissions

Assessment of student learning outcomes will be conducted using direct measures embedded within required and elective courses for the certificate. Student work such as analytical essays, research papers, exams, media analyses, presentations, or creative projects will be evaluated using common rubrics aligned with the program's student learning outcomes. Aggregate results will be reviewed periodically by program faculty to assess student achievement and to inform curricular improvement as appropriate.

Course-to-Student Learning Outcomes Alignment Table

Course	SLO 1: Analyze	SLO 2: Evaluate	SLO 3: Synthesize	SLO 4: Communicate
PHIL 3300, Philosophy of Sports and Games (Required)	✔	✔	✔	✔
ANTH 2700, Anthropology of Sport	✔	✔	✔	✔
CLAS 3030, Ancient Sport	✔		✔	✔
HIPR 2200, Sports Heritage	✔		✔	✔
HIST 3755, History of Sport	✔		✔	✔

Course	SLO 1: Analyze	SLO 2: Evaluate	SLO 3: Synthesize	SLO 4: Communicate
KINS(AFAM) 3580, Sport and the Black Culture	✔	✔	✔	✔
RELI 3040, Religion and Sports	✔	✔	✔	✔
SOCI 3740, Sociology of Sport	✔	✔	✔	✔
SPTM 3800, Sports, Media, and Society	✔	✔	✔	✔
THEA 2140, Athletes and Artists: The Drama of Sports	✔		✔	✔

Notes

- PHIL 3300 is a required course and addresses all four SLOs, so all students will get all four SLOs.
- SLO 1 and SLO 3 are reinforced across nearly all courses.
- SLO 2 is emphasized in philosophy, sociology, media, religion, and race-focused courses.
- SLO 4 is addressed through discipline-appropriate writing, presentation, or creative work.

Describe the process and criteria for how students will be admitted to and retained in the program.

Students can apply online to the Undergraduate Certificate in Sport Humanities through the Philosophy department's website. To be eligible to participate in the program, an applicant must be a currently enrolled student in good standing in an undergraduate degree-seeking program at the university.

Departmental efforts to retain students in the program will be done by regular communication through email and social media, as well as hosting events for career networking and community building.

Outlook

Re: Sports studies or sports humanities certificate

From J. Derrick Lemons <dlemons@uga.edu>
Date Tue 11/11/2025 11:06 AM
To Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Cc Kendall Marchman <kendallmarchman@uga.edu>

Dear Aaron,

Please include RELI 3040 in the new sports humanities certificate.

Best,

Dr. Derrick Lemons
Professor and Head of Religion
Chair, Executive Committee of University Council
Director, Center for Theologically Engaged Anthropology
Willson Center Fellow of Religion
UGA Faculty Representative, University System of Georgia Faculty Council
Phone: 706-206-1927
Website: https://ctea.franklinresearch.uga.edu/

From: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 10:15 AM
To: J. Derrick Lemons <dlemons@uga.edu>
Cc: Kendall Marchman <kendallmarchman@uga.edu>
Subject: Re: Sports studies or sports humanities certificate

Dear Derrick (cc Kendall),

We are moving forward with proposing the sports humanities certificate. It will be a 12-18 credit certificate with a range of electives from Franklin and Grady. The focus will be on humanities, but we will also include courses from the social sciences (anthropology, sociology) and the arts. We might change the title of the certificate if we can think of something better! 🙂

Would you want us to add RELI 3040 as one of the electives?

If so, I need a very brief letter (or even a clean email) saying that you support the inclusion of the course in the certificate.

Thanks,
Aaron

Aaron Meskin
Professor and Head of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
106 Peabody Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1627

From: J. Derrick Lemons <dlemons@uga.edu>
Sent: Saturday, August 9, 2025 11:21 AM
To: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Cc: Kendall Marchman <kendallmarchman@uga.edu>
Subject: RE: Sports studies or sports humanities certificate

Yes, I believe it is possible. It has been submitted to CAPA. Best, Derrick

---

From: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 3:09 PM
To: J. Derrick Lemons <dlemons@uga.edu>
Subject: Re: Sports studies or sports humanities certificate

Hi Derrick

This looks great. Do you expect to be able to offer it by next year?

Aaron

Aaron Meskin
Professor and Head of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
106 Peabody Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1627

From: J. Derrick Lemons <dlemons@uga.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 4:31 PM
To: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Subject: FW: Sports studies or sports humanities certificate

Hi Aaron,

Here is the class that the religion department is moving through CAPA.

Best,
Derrick

UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Department of
Anthropology
Franklin College of
Arts and Sciences

I consent for the **Anthropology of Sport (ANTH2700)** to be listed as one of the elective courses for the proposed Sports Humanities Certificate to be housed in the Department of Philosophy.

Sincerely,

Ted L Gragson
Professor & Unit Head

Outlook

Re: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

From Mario Erasmo <merasmo@uga.edu>
Date Fri 11/14/2025 5:53 AM
To Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>

Dear Aaron,
Yes, please add CLAS 3030 Ancient Sport to the list of electives that would satisfy the proposed sports humanities certificate.

Best wishes,
Mario

From: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 10:18 AM
To: Mario Erasmo <merasmo@uga.edu>
Subject: Re: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

Dear Mario

We are moving forward with proposing the sports humanities certificate. It will be a 12-18 credit certificate with a range of electives from Franklin and Grady. The focus will be on humanities, but we will also include courses from the social sciences (anthropology, sociology) and the arts. We might change the title of the certificate if we can think of something better! 🙂

Would you want us to add CLAS 3030 as one of the electives?

If so, I need a very brief letter (or even a clean email) saying that you support the inclusion of the course in the certificate.

Thanks,
Aaron

Aaron Meskin
Professor and Head of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
106 Peabody Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1627

From: Mario Erasmo <merasmo@uga.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 2:39 PM
To: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Subject: Re: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

Hi Aaron,
Great idea. Classics offers CLAS 3030 Ancient Sport every year. Count us in.

Talk soon,
Mario

From: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Stephen A Mihm <mihm@uga.edu>; Dana C Bultman <dbultman@uga.edu>; Masaki Mori <mamo@uga.edu>; Mario Erasmo <merasmo@uga.edu>; Kevin Jones <kevjones@uga.edu>; Brigitte Rossbacher <rossbach@uga.edu>; Keith Langston <langston@uga.edu>; Akinloye A Ojo <akinloye@uga.edu>; J. Derrick Lemons <dlemons@uga.edu>; Carolyn JONES Medine <medine@uga.edu>; LeAnne Howe <lhowe1@uga.edu>; Roland Vegso <Roland.Vegso@uga.edu>; Lewis C Howe <chowe@uga.edu>; Timothy Yang <TIMOTHY.YANG@uga.edu>
Subject: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

Hi All

I'm doing some initial exploration of the possibility of a sports studies or sports humanities certificate. The Dean's office is quite positive about this.

So...a few questions (send responses directly to me, no need to cc all):

(1) Does your unit currently have any courses that might naturally fit into such a certificate? If so, what are they?
(2) Do you think it likely that your unit would be interested in developing such a course? If so, what might those be?
(3) Do you have any other ideas or questions about such a proposal?

Thanks!

Aaron

Aaron Meskin
Professor and Head of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
106 Peabody Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1627

The University of Georgia

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History

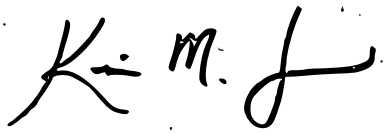
11 November 2025

Dear Professor Meskin,

I write to express support and approval for the following History course in the proposed sports humanities certificate:

HIST 3755 The History of Sport

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Jones
Head, Department of History

LeConte Hall • Athens, Georgia 30602-1602 • (706) 542-2053 • FAX (706)452-2455
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Outlook

Sports Studies Certificate - Inclusion of Sociology Class

From William Pridemore <pridemore@uga.edu>
Date Tue 11/11/2025 11:17 AM
To Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>

Hi Aaron,

We are happy to include SOCI 3740 – Sociology of Sport as a course for the new Sports Studies Certificate you are creating. This is a great idea, thanks for including us, and if you need anything else just let me know.

Best,
Bill

William Alex Pridemore
Department of Sociology | *Department Head and Marienthal Professor*

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
1785

Outlook

Sports Humanities Certificate

From Julie Allardice Ray <jaray@uga.edu>
Date Wed 11/12/2025 1:53 PM
To Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>

Hi Aaron,
We are excited about the new Sports Humanities certificate program and welcome the inclusion of THEA 2140 "Drama and Sports" as an elective within it.

Please let me know if you need anything else from my end to make this happen.

Thank you!

Julie Ray, Department Head
Theatre and Film Studies | Franklin College
Caroline Reid Ridlehuber Professor

p: 706-542-2836
w: drama.uga.edu

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
1785

Outlook

Re: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

From Carolyn JONES Medine <medine@uga.edu>
Date Wed 7/2/2025 6:53 PM
To Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>; Marques Rand Dexter <mrdst3@uga.edu>

Hi!

It is this one:

KINS(AFAM) 3580

3 hours

Sport and the Black Culture

A cultural analysis of sport and Black cultures. Evolution of sport as a cultural expression in Black communities. Historical patterns and current conditions of Blacks' participation in sport.

Carolyn M. Jones Medine, Religion and Institute for African American Studies
Franklin College | *All Shall Be Well Professor of Religion and Professor and Director, Institute for African American Studies*
Institute for African American Studies | Holmes Hunter-2nd Floor | Athens, GA 30602
706-542-5197 | medine@uga.edu
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Make a Gift

From: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 4:45 PM
To: Marques Rand Dexter <mrdst3@uga.edu>; Carolyn JONES Medine <medine@uga.edu>
Subject: Re: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

Thanks both. It sounds like you have real expertise, Marques.

Carolyn—can you clarify—what is the course that you are referring to? Is it something that is already on the books?

We are in the very earliest stages of looking into this, so I'll get back to you.

Best
Aaron

Aaron Meskin
Professor and Head of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
106 Peabody Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1627

From: Marques Rand Dexter <mrdst3@uga.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 3:40 PM
To: Carolyn JONES Medine <medine@uga.edu>; Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Subject: Re: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

Dr. Medine and Dr. Meskin,

Thank you for including me in this important conversation. I appreciate the opportunity to lend my perspective, particularly given my academic and professional background in the field.

I previously taught KINS 4820: Social Aspects of Sport and am aware of KINS (AFAM) 3580: Sport and Black Culture, formerly taught by Dr. Billy Hawkins. These offerings, while valuable, represent rare exceptions within the Sport Management curriculum. Given the large number of undergraduate students aspiring to work within the sport industry, there is strong interest in courses that critically explore sport through cultural, social, and political lenses — something the current curriculum does not adequately address.

This gap becomes even more pronounced at the graduate level, where emerging scholars often have to seek faculty mentorship and coursework outside the department or even the college to access such perspectives, largely due to the absence of faculty conducting research in these areas.

As someone who returned to UGA to pursue a Ph.D. in Kinesiology (Sport Management & Policy — still dissertating) and who was actively involved in NASSS prior to moving into a full-time administrative role in 2021, I would be more than willing to support or contribute however I can to this initiative.

-Marques

Marques R. Dexter '09
Interim Director | *Office of Multicultural Services and Programs*
Associate Director | Office of Inclusive Excellence and Academic Engagement
Director | *Georgia Ready Summer Institute*
Affiliate Faculty | *Office for Student Success and Achievement*

Memorial Hall | Suite 404
101 Sanford Dr.
Athens, GA 30602
p: 706-542-5773
e: mrdst3@uga.edu
w: http://msp.uga.edu/

Click here to schedule a meeting with me

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." - Muhammad Ali

---

From: Carolyn JONES Medine <medine@uga.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 2:44 PM
To: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>, Marques Rand Dexter <mrdst3@uga.edu>
Subject: Re: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

We do have a course, and Marques Dexter and I have talked about his teaching it for IAAS. It would be a great fit!

Carolyn M. Jones Medine, Religion and Institute for African American Studies
Franklin College | *All Shall Be Well Professor of Religion and Professor and Director, Institute for African American Studies*
Institute for African American Studies | Holmes Hunter-2nd Floor | Athens, GA 30602
706-542-5197 | medine@uga.edu

Make a Gift

From: Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Stephen A Mihm <mihm@uga.edu>; Dana C Bultman <dbultman@uga.edu>; Masaki Mori <mamo@uga.edu>; Mario Erasmo <merasmo@uga.edu>; Kevin Jones <kevjones@uga.edu>; Brigitte Rossbacher <rossbach@uga.edu>; Keith Langston <langston@uga.edu>; Akinloye A Ojo <akinloye@uga.edu>; J. Derrick Lemons <dlemons@uga.edu>; Carolyn JONES Medine <medine@uga.edu>; LeAnne Howe <lhowe1@uga.edu>; Roland Vegso <Roland.Vegso@uga.edu>; Lewis C Howe <chowe@uga.edu>; Timothy Yang <TIMOTHY.YANG@uga.edu>
Subject: sports studies/sports humanities certificate: input needed

Hi All

I'm doing some initial exploration of the possibility of a sports studies or sports humanities certificate. The Dean's office is quite positive about this.

So...a few questions (send responses directly to me, no need to cc all):

(1) Does your unit currently have any courses that might naturally fit into such a certificate? If so, what are they?
(2) Do you think it likely that your unit would be interested in developing such a course? If so, what might those be?
(3) Do you have any other ideas or questions about such a proposal?

Thanks!

Aaron

Aaron Meskin
Professor and Head of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
106 Peabody Hall
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1627

Outlook

Approval of SPTM 3800 to be included in sports humanities certificate

From Vicki S Michaelis <vickim@uga.edu>
Date Fri 3/6/2026 12:24 PM
To Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>

Hi Aaron,
Hope your week is going well.
I approve for SPTM 3800: "Sports, Media and Society" to be included in the Sports Humanities Certificate.
The course is offered both fall and spring semesters, with an enrollment of 300 students. Although the course is taught by a Carmical Sports Media Institute faculty member, it is open to all UGA undergraduate students, regardless of major.
Please note we are seeking to change the course number to SPTM 4000/6000 soon. We are creating a master's program in sports media, and this course will be among those available to our graduate students.
Please let me know if you need any other information from me.
Thanks,
Vicki

Prof. Vicki Michaelis
John Huland Carmical Chair in Sports Journalism & Society
Director, Carmical Sports Media Institute at the University of Georgia
120 Hooper St., office 423A
Athens, GA 30602
(E) vickim@uga.edu
Instagram: @SportsMediaUGA
Web site: sportsmediainstitute.uga.edu
Spring 2026 office hours: 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesdays

Outlook

Approval of SPTM 3800

From Ivanka Pjesivac <ivanka@uga.edu>
Date Sun 3/8/2026 3:40 PM
To Aaron Meskin <Aaron.Meskin@uga.edu>
Cc Vicki S Michaelis <vickim@uga.edu>

Hi Aaron,

I approve SPTM 3800: Sports, Media and Society to be included in the course offerings for the sports humanities certificate.

The course is taught by faculty members of the Carmical Sports Media Institute, which is housed in the Journalism department, at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The course is offered both fall and spring semesters, with an enrollment of 300 students. The course is open to all UGA undergraduate students, regardless of their major.

Good luck with your certificate!

Best,
Ivanka

Ivanka Pjesivac, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Head, Journalism Department
Director, Cox Center for International Mass Communication Training and Research
Program Director, International Mass Communication in Croatia (Study Abroad)

Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication
University of Georgia
120 Hooper Street, Athens GA, 30602
United States

office: 231 Journalism Building
ivanka@uga.edu

UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

College of Environment + Design

March 30, 2026

Dear Prof. Meskin:

I am writing to endorse the proposed certificate in Sports Humanities, particularly my endorsement that HIPR 2200, Sports Heritage, be included as an elective course within that certificate.

Sincerely,

Scott Nesbit
Associate Professor
Director, Historic Preservation program

Sonia Hirt
Hughes Professor in Landscape Architecture and Planning
Dean