



A History And Philosophy of Sport and Physical Education: From Ancient Civilizations to the Modern World

By Robert Mechikoff, Steven Estes

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This engaging and informative text will hold the attention of students and scholars as they take a journey through time to understand the role that history and philosophy have played in shaping the course of sport and physical education in Western and selected non-Western civilizations.

Using appropriate theoretical and interpretive frameworks, students will investigate topics such as the historical relationship between mind and body; what philosophers and intellectuals have said about the body as a source of knowledge; educational philosophy and the value of physical education and/or sport; philosophical positions that have impacted the historical development of sport and physical education; the history of women in sport and physical education; the role and scope of sport and physical education in Ancient Greece and Rome; the Ancient Olympic Games; the relationship between sport and religion in ancient and modern times; the theoretical and professional development of physical education; the rise of sport in modern America; the history and politics of the modern Olympic Games; and the contributions of men, women, and social movements to the development of sport and physical education from ancient times to the modern era..

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A History And Philosophy of Sport and Physical Education: From Ancient Civilizations to the Modern World By Robert Mechikoff, Steven Estes Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1410812 in Books
- Published on: 2005-07-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .67" w x 7.00" l, 1.41 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 432 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Robert Mechikoff is a Professor in the Department of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at San Diego State University where he has taught history of sport and philosophy courses since 1981. He received his BA in Political Science from Long Beach State University as well as his MA in Physical Education. Professor Mechikoff earned his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University where he studied history and philosophy. He coached football and swimming at both the high school and college level. Professor Mechikoff is an internationally recognized scholar, conducting extensive research and lecturing in the history and philosophy of the Ancient and Modern Olympic Games all over the world. He is a member of The Olympic Family, The International Society of Olympic Historians, and has served as Supervising Professor at the International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Greece on more than one occasion where he taught philosophy to graduate students from 25 different countries. In 1982, Professor Mechikoff served as Founding President and CEO of USA Volleyball (Men's Team). The U.S. Olympic Men's Team won the Gold Medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympiad. He is a frequent lecturer at the British Olympic Academy and numerous Olympic Academies and Universities around the world. His interest in sport in antiquity, especially Greek athletics, is evident in his latest research. Since 2002 Professor Mechikoff has assisted in the work being conducted at the archeological site in Ancient Nemea, one of the four great athletic festivals of ancient Greece. He is a frequent visitor to the Olympic Museum and Studies Center in Lausanne, Switzerland and knows many members of the International Olympic Committee on a personal basis. Because of his international reputation as an Olympic Scholar, the International Olympic Committee awarded him the title of "Distinguished Guest of the IOC" during the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics. He is one of the few Kinesiology / Physical Education Professors who can (albeit with difficulty), translate ancient Greek from their original sources. He speaks, and reads French, Modern Greek, Spanish, and Russian; one day he hopes to actually be able to understand what the French, Greek, Spanish, and Russians are saying to him. In addition to his scholarly contributions in history and philosophy, Professor Mechikoff has published several texts in sport psychology as well as an introduction to kinesiology text. He is frequently sought out by the media to share his expertise on issues pertaining to ethics in sport, fan and coaching behavior, sport history, and the Olympics. He enjoys lecturing in North America as well as abroad. .

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