

CLAS 140/HIST 140-03: Ancient Warfare and Sport

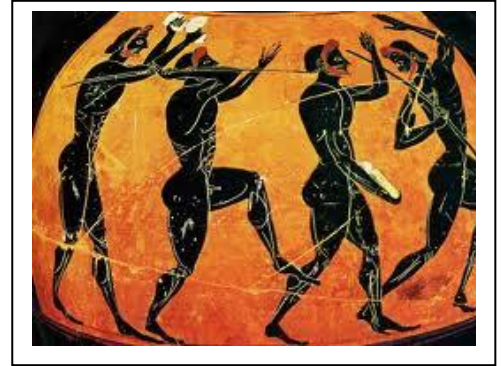
.5 Course

First eight weeks of Fall Semester
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45 AM

Instructor: Simmons



From our first records of Greco-Roman life, expressions of warfare and of sporting behavior have overlapped. From the obvious combat of wrestling and gladiatorial conflict, to less outwardly violent activities such as javelin throwing and chariot



racers, the roots of many of the most popular sporting activities in the ancient world were in preparation for battle. This course will explore both of those critical parts of life in the ancient world, as they developed individually, and in interactions between them.



In approaching warfare, we will examine techniques including the hoplite phalanx formation that was popular in Greece in the archaic and classical periods, and the *triplex acies* system that was prominent for centuries among Roman armies. We will look at approaches used successfully and unsuccessfully in significant battles through the centuries. And we will study the training and armature that soldiers used at different points in history.

This last element will tie in to our approach to sports, in which certain practices of warfare, such as boxing, running, and throwing, were isolated as individual competitions. Along these lines, we will study the development of the Olympics and other major Greek games, the competitions at Roman festivals (including gladiatorial combat), and the training of athletes going into these contests, plus a number of leisure events that do not have an obvious connection to warfare. The course will be highly active throughout, with students regularly asked to act out battle techniques and athletic events.



All students are eligible to take this course.