

Unfair Advantage: The Politics of Track and Field

WST 392, STAS

Winter Session, Valerie Moyer



Technology is used to enhance athletic performance, but also to control and limit bodily capacity. How is science used in the construction and maintenance of identity categories in sports? This course explores the use of technology in sport, specifically track and field. From high-tech recovery methods, to steroids, to prosthetic blades—we ask why some technologies are deemed acceptable while others remain illicit. To explore these questions, we look historically at the construction of race, gender, and disability in and through science, and the way these categories are maintained and policed in athletics. While policies around sex and gender affects all sports, the history and current debates within track and field provide an important window into those debates. therefore. this sport will be the focus of the class.