Introduction

- Role of sport in society
- Marxian critique of sport
- Sport and women
- Mind/body dualism and sport
- Sports design
- Athlete as hero
- Youth and sport
- Hegemonic masculinity in sport
- Learning outcome 2: Assess the ways in which gender are constituted or challenged through particular forms of culture (sport)
- Assignment topic – sport and gender
Role of sport in societies

- **Women in Sport** (10.07 mins)
- Vocabulary of sport pervades everyday life
- Hegel
  - One can understand a people by the gods they worship
- Values are present in sport which reflect society
- Camus
  - Once claimed he learned ethics in sport
Marxian Critique of Sport

- Sport reflects capitalist society
- Capitalist competition
- Sport as alienating
- Abolish competitive sport
- Lasch – contemporary sport should be independent of education, business, entertainment

Both assume

- Values in sport reflect society
- Sport teaches those values
Sport and Women

• History of women being excluded from full participation in sport
• Less money, less press coverage
• Different arguments
  ◦ Women are physically weaker (see the BBC debate)
  ◦ More desirable for men to gain sporting values (courage, competitiveness, discipline)
Mind and body

- Paul Weiss: Philosophy of Sport
  - Sport overcomes the separation between mind and body
  - Weiss argues the separation of mind/body is more acute for men
  - From this viewpoint sport addresses the mind/body issue for men
  - Such arguments have been challenged by women participating in sport
  - And when women beat men there is controversy (e.g. Ye Shiwen)
Sports design

- Sports - designed and developed by men
- Betsy Postow
  - Built in bias in sports
  - Marion Young (philosopher)
    - distinction between experience of oneself / others as body-subject/body-object
- Sport calls upon the body’s capacities/skills
- Our culture is dominated by the masculine
  - Where the body-subject source of energy, activity, power
  - Body-object to be looked at, passive (sexualisation of female sportspeople)
  - Q: is it the case that boys learn to be active, energetic, assertive and girls learn to be beautiful?
Differences?

- Claims are made there are differences
  - Psychological, intellectual, spiritual
  - Muscles might result from social conditioning
  - Men and women share characteristics
- Values encouraged in sports
  - self-confidence, self-discipline, teamwork, competitive spirit, spirit of fair play
  - Both males and females are competitive
Athlete as hero

Heroes display the traits of character/personality most desirable and honoured

Era dominated by technology

- Reduces need for physical strength
- Therefore the athlete’s virtues leads us to admire athletes
- Nostalgia for the past
- Want to preserve these values
- Become our model – how we want to be (self-discipline, teamwork)
Youth

Athletic field
- Youth can hope to achieve and exhibit the excellence admired in heroes
- Excellence in athletes before excelling in politics, business etc.
- Personal lives of athletes might not be morally and ethically inspiring

Athletes have no practical value
- Scientists, business people, campaigners engage in ‘useful’ activity
- Others argue against this and suggest athletes are better heroes than trained killers (soldiers)
Hegemonic Masculinity and Sport

- Sport stresses hegemonic masculinity
- Different sports with different versions of masculinities e.g. Wimbledon
  - Englishness
  - Media constructing differences
  - Competing codes of gender
Summary

- **Dick Kerr Ladies** (30 minutes)
- Critique: **This Girl Can** (1.03 mins)
- Various different ideas regarding gender and participation in sport
- Including mind/body and masculinity/femininity
- Marxism and competition bringing about alienation
- Viewpoints about physical, spiritual and moral differences
- Athlete as hero
- Young boys learning to be men
- Hegemonic masculinity and sport

