

As college students, we often hear people talking about Title IX, especially in relation to sports. We know that it has something to do with gender equality and rights, but what does it really mean and why was it put into effect? The aim of this course is to dive into the the issues behind Title IX and gain a holistic understanding of the history, the current situation and future of gender and racial equality in sports worldwide. We will focus our study around the sporting world, while also relating what we find to society as a whole.

Firstly, we have to understand that not everyone agrees about equality or what extent those in charge should go to in order to ensure it. Some think that we should work to counter every disadvantage; all the way down to family influence and natural talent. Others think that we should simply allow for equal opportunity and stop there. Neither of these opinions is wrong, per say, they are simply looking at it from different perspectives. Because of this, it is important to keep an open mind throughout the course.

After looking at the opposing viewpoints in more detail, we will move on to study the current situation of equality in college sports. As we continue, we dive briefly into the early days of the NFL in order to gain a historical reference on racial discrimination and how much things have changed. We will then move on to look at recent history and the much-debated opinion that certain races are naturally better at certain sports. For the fifth unit, we look at the impact of sports norms on society and how we can change them. This eventually leads us to the world stage for our last two units. We will begin with the Olympic committee and its involvement in the World Conference on Women in Sport. We will learn how the Olympic committee is striving to achieve full equality in the games, and how it is very close to reaching that goal with a record 42% of athletes in the 2016 Games being women.

For the final unit, we get to take an in-person look at the equality of sports in today's world by traveling to Tokyo for the 2020 summer Olympic games. Students will look at different genders' sports and programs from different countries, examining differences and questioning the fairness of those differences.

Through this semester of diverse research, students can expect to learn a great deal about equality in the sporting world and about the rest of the world as a result. By looking at the issues of gender and racial equality in the context of sports, we can gain a better understanding of society as a whole.