

Anth 3225 Anthropology of Action Sports—Short Description

Instructor	Daniel Rosenblatt
Term	Winter 2027
Course Delivery	Seminar/Discussion
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The last 50 years have seen an explosion in what are usually called action or extreme sports (skiing, surfing, climbing, skateboarding, mountain biking among others) and more generally in outdoor pursuits. This course explores the wide-ranging anthropological work that addresses these activities, looking at appeal these activities have for their participants, the relationship between that appeal and broader cultural structures, and the impacts the growth of action sports and the outdoor industry has had on the rest of society. Topics include the racial and gender dynamics in outdoor activities, rural gentrification, sports countercultures, environmental activism and attempts to develop sustainable or of socially beneficial forms of capitalism.

EVALUATION

Take-home final, weekly questions, leading discussion for a reading.

TEXTS

Readings may include all or parts of the following, among others:

Beames, Simon, and Jack Reed. "Adventure sports, social media, and environmental activism."

In *Sport, performance and sustainability*, pp. 33-49. Routledge, 2023. Coleman, Annie Gilbert. 1996. "The unbearable whiteness of skiing." *Pacific Historical Review* 65 (4): 583-614.

Comer, Krista. 2010. *Surfer girls in the new world order*. Duke University Press.

Farrell, Justin. 2020. "Billionaire wilderness: The ultra-wealthy and the remaking of the American West." In *Billionaire Wilderness*. Princeton University Press.

Fletcher, Robert. 2014. *Romancing the wild: Cultural dimensions of ecotourism*. Duke University Press Durham, NC.

Hansman, Heather. 2021 *Powder Days: Ski Bums, Ski Towns, and the Future of Chasing Snow*. New York: Harper Collins

Lawler, Kristen. 2010. *The American Surfer Radical Culture and Capitalism*. New York: Routledge.

Chouinard, Yvon. 2016. *Let my people go surfing: The education of a reluctant businessman-- Including 10 more years of business unusual*. Penguin.