# **English 2020: Literature, Media, and Culture: American Sport**

# Fall 2022, Section 2020-40

### Course Description

In this asynchronous online course, you will dive into American sport through the study of literature and different types of media. You will acquire the tools for understanding, appreciating, and writing about sports—and get ready to share (through discussions and essays) your own personal experiences in sport as well. By exploring a variety of authors and media, we will investigate the many ways sports are a part of our culture and lives. Online discussion, reading, and writing are equally important in this class, and you will hone your skills in each area by the end of the semester. This course fulfills your COM2 and O (Oral Communication) requirements.

During the semester, you will be responsible for three 1000+ word essays, eight discussion posts, three reading exams, and an oral/video presentation.

**COM2 Requirement**

This course fulfills the Communication 2 (COM2) requirement of the 2015 University Studies Program. Students will develop skills in written, oral, and digital communication as appropriate to specific disciplines and courses at the introductory, intermediate, and advanced level. Through repeated instruction, practice, and feedback, the communication sequence will emphasize and progressively develop transferrable skills for students’ academic work and future professions. Intermediate courses (COM2) will emphasize foundational oral and digital communication skills and continue to build on writing skills. Successful completion of COM1 is a prerequisite for COM2.

**USP Learning Outcomes**

--Develop and communicate written, oral, and digital messages through a variety of assignments that include discipline-based or interdisciplinary purposes, forms, and audiences.

--Find, analyze, evaluate, and document information appropriately using a variety of sources.

--Understand the different purposes of written, oral, and digital messages and employ appropriate organizational strategies, including developing thesis statements and main ideas.

--Make effective use of multiple drafts, revisions, progressive assignments, computer technology, peer and instructor comments, and collaboration in the achievement of a final work of communication.

--Observe the accepted conventions including spelling, grammar, organizational structure, punctuation, delivery and documentation in oral, written, and digital messages.

--Deliver prepared presentations in a natural, confident, and conversational manner, and display nonverbal communication that is consistent with and supportive of the oral message.

--Interact effectively with audience members, engage opposing viewpoints constructively, and demonstrate active listening skills.

**Required Texts**

### All readings for the semester can be found on our class Canvas/WyoCourses page. Look closely at the modules for each week for current information on readings and assignments.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Your final grade will consist of:

--Three Essays (1000+ words each) 300 points (100 points each)

--Three Reading Quizzes 90 points (30 points each)

--Oral Presentation 100 points

--Discussion Posts (Eight) 80 points (10 points each)

### Grading Scale: A=90-100; B=80-89.99; C=70-79.99; D=60-69.99; F=59.99-below

**Course Assignments/Requirements**

**1) Essays:**  You will write **three 1000+ word essays** during the semester. These essays will be both creative (Essays #1 and #2) and analytical (Essay #3). The first essay will focus on your personal experience with a sport/sports, the second essay will ask you to create a portrait of a person who has influenced your own sporting life in some way, and the third will be a compare/contrast between two essays of your choice that we’ll read later in the semester. Content as well as grammar/mechanics/formatting are important to creating clarity in writing and will be taken into consideration as I grade your work.

**2) Reading Quizzes:** There will be **three** reading quizzes during the semester based on texts you’re reading for class. These quizzes will be short answer/multiple choice.

**3) Oral Presentation:** You will put together a **7-10 minute presentation** on the sports and culture of a certain time period. For instance, you will research sports and culture from the years 1930-39. You will also read a piece of literature written during this time period and find a review of this literary work. Later in the semester, I will assign you your time period. You will create a video of the presentation that you upload to a discussion board on Canvas/WyoCourses. You will be graded on not only the content of your presentation but also your oral communication skills.

**4) Discussion Posts:** You will responsible for **eight discussion posts**during the semester. These posts will be based on prompts that I provide on Canvas/WyoCourses. Be aware that I will provide specific directions for each post, so read the instructions closely. In general, the posts will be due at **11:59pm on Fridays** and posts uploaded after this time will be docked two points each day until Monday at 11:59pm (three days), and after that will receive no credit.

In terms of length, posts should be around 200 words, but will not be penalized if you go above that (use your best judgment). When posting, please include **at least one quote** from the essay that you're responding to. Also, for some posts, you will be required to respond to a classmate’s post. I will indicate which ones you need a response for someone else.

**Course Policies**

**Writing**: All uploaded essays must be in 12-point font with normal margins. And remember: GRAMMAR AND MECHANICS COUNT. Grammar/mechanics mistakes will be taken into consideration when I grade your work. **See each assignment page on WyCourses for more specifics on formatting.**

**Late Work**: Late work, for any reason, will be penalized. Writing assignments must be uploaded by the specific time/date indicated on WyoCourses or you will lose points on the assignment.

**Important Information:** Please read “Classroom Climate and Conduct” and “Learning Tools” on the WyoCourses shell for this class. Even though this is an online class, there is pertinent information there on treating your fellow classmates with respect and also resources for you, including disability support services.

I also want to mention that if you find yourself in a situation where plagiarism/academic dishonesty seems like your best available option, stop yourself. Contact me and I will help you with the assignment.

The content of this syllabus may change during the course. I will keep you informed of the modifications. Don’t hesitate to communicate with me or your peers if you have any questions about the changes.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

#### **Week One (8/21 - 8/27)**

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#### Readings:

Jane Bernstein, “Still Running”

J.D. Dolan, “Pool: A Love Story”

Chris Wiewora, “Board in the Florida Suburbs”

Beth Kephart, “Playing for Keeps”

Handouts:

Creative Nonfiction Essay Guide

Organizing Creative Nonfiction

Essay Assignment #1

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #1”

Due by Friday, August 26 at 11:59pm

**Week Two (8/28 – 9/3)**

Readings:

Mark Gozonsky, “Gritty All Day Long”

Jonathan Segura, “The Game of His Life”

Kim Cross, “The King of Tides”

Bill Plaschke, “Her Blue Haven”

Handouts:

Dialogue Formatting

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #2”

Due by Friday, September 2 at 11:59pm

**Week Three (9/4 – 9/10)**

Readings:

Tracy Ross, “The Source of All Things”

Reading Quiz #1:

80-minute time limit

Due by Thursday, September 8 at 11:59pm

**Week Four (9/11– 9/17)**

Readings:

Movie Week—Choose and watch your favorite sports movie

Essay #1:

Due by Wednesday, September 14 at 11:59pm

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #3”

Due by Friday, September 16 at 11:59pm

**Week Five (9/18 – 9/24)**

Readings:

Henley O’Brien, “About Winning”

Rick Bass, “The Rage of the Squat King”

Travis Haney, “More Than Skin Deep”

Jeff Maysh, “Why One Woman Pretended to Be a High-School Cheerleader”

Handouts:

Essay Assignment #2

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #4”

Due by Friday, September 23 at 11:59pm.

**Week Six (9/25 – 10/1)**

Readings:

Reid Forgrave, “The Concussion Diaries: One High School Football Player’s

Secret Struggle with CTE”

Jeff Pearlman, “Mom’s the Word”

Alan Prendergast, “Dropped”

Chantel Jennings, “Dante Pettis’s Reading List: Defenses, and Then the Definitive Works”

Elizabeth Merrill, “Whatever Happened to Villanova Basketball Star Shelly Pennefather? ‘So,

 I Made This Deal with God.’”

Essay #1 Revision (optional):

Due by Wednesday, September 28 at 11:59pm.

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #5”

Due by Friday, September 30 at 11:59pm.

**Week Seven (10/2 – 10/8)**

Reading Quiz #2:

80-minute time limit

Due by Wednesday, October 5 at 11:59pm.

**Week Eight (10/9 – 10/15)**

Essay #2:

Due by Monday, October 10 at 11:59pm.

**Week Nine (10/16 – 10/22)**

Oral Presentations (First Group):

Due by Friday, October 21 at 11:59pm.

Start Discussion Posts/Responses to oral presentations (two responses for each group)

Essay #2 Revision (optional):

Due by Friday, October 21 at 11:59pm.

**Week Ten (10/23 – 10/29)**

Oral Presentations (Second Group):

Due by Friday, October 28 at 11:59pm.

Start Discussion Posts/Responses to oral presentations (two responses for each group)

#### **Week Eleven (10/30 – 11/5)**

Oral Presentations (Third Group):

Due by Friday, November 4 at 11:59pm.

Start Discussion Posts/Responses to oral presentations (two responses for each group)

**Week Twelve (11/6 – 11/12)**

Readings:

Gene Collier, “The Ex-Sportswriter”

Juliet Macur, “‘Please Let Me Die’”

Jon Mooallem, “The History (and Mystery) of the High Five”

Aishwarya Kumar, “The Grandmaster Diet”

Sean Flynn, “The Memorial”

Handouts:

Essay Assignment #3

Works Cited format

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #6”

Due by Friday, November 11 at 11:59pm.

**Week Thirteen (11/13 – 11/19)**

Readings:

Amanda Hess, “You Can Only Hope to Contain Them”

Eli Saslow, “The Old Ba’ Game”

David Dobbs, “The Tight Collar”

Steve Politi, “He Told a Kid to Slide. Then He Got Sued.”

L. Jon Wertheim and Ken Rodriguez, “Smack Epidemic”

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #7”

Due by Friday, November 18 at 11:59pm.

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week Fourteen (11/27 – 12/3)**

Reading Quiz #3:

80-minute time limit

Due by Tuesday, November 29 at 11:59pm.

Essay #3:

Due by Friday, December 2 at 11:59pm.

**Week Fifteen (12/4 – 12/10)**

Discussion Prompt:

See WyoCourses under “Discussion #8”

Due by Friday, December 9 at 11:59pm.

**Finals Week (12/11 – 12/17)**

Essay #3 Revision (optional):

Due by Tuesday, December 13 at 11:59pm.