

Sport Literature – Spring 2008
Thetford Academy
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Overview

In this course students will observe the world of sports through literature. Here, literature is loosely defined and will encompass fiction, non-fiction, films, short essays, newspaper and magazine articles, personal accounts, biographies, and interviews. Class work will involve reading, writing, interviewing, investigation, advocacy and community involvement. Throughout the semester students will engage in variety of activities and projects to broaden their view of what it means to be an athlete and what it means to be involved in sports. Much of this work will take place outside the classroom and it will be expected that all students will come to class ready to openly share their views and their work.

Expectations

First and foremost we will foster a culture of understanding and respect amongst *all* participants in the course. There are likely to be disagreements and differences of opinions; we must work through these and understand that everyone has an equal voice. That said, you will only get of it what you put into it. The reading and writing will only be meaningful if you make a thoughtful and focused effort. As Graduation and fair weather approaches there will be a tendency to lose interest and think about life beyond TA, whether it be college or summer. The expectations of this class will not follow that trend and student work will need to be consistent through the entire semester

Reading

We will read a variety of works including, but not limited to:

- Friday Night Lights, HG Bissinger
- Into Thin Air, Jon Krakauer
- A Home on the Field, Paul Cuadros
- Medal of Honor, John Morton
- Short essays from: New York Times, National Public Radio, Sports Illustrated
- Works by: Joe Deffner, Norman MacLean, Ken Dryden, Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Assessment-points are assigned based on the expected effort of each assignment

- 20 % - Class participation through daily quick-writes and reading responses
- 40% - 2-3 responses to text per quarter
- 40% - One major project per quarter

Projects

We will engage in two major projects this semester. First will be a debate on a current issue in sport today. The second will involve an in-depth, group study of a sport on the fringe of society.