

English 212
Fall 2004

Judy Gill
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Office Hrs: Mon & Wed 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Tues & Thurs 1-2:30 p.m.
And by appointment

Writing About Sports

Good is not easy.

Rick Reilly

Required Texts:

Buzz Bissinger, ed., The Best American Sports Writing 2003

Lance Armstrong, It's Not About the Bike

Buzz Bissinger, Friday Night Lights

Jon Krakauer, Into Thin Air

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

In this course, we will read and discuss selected examples of sports writing from newspapers and magazines, both short articles/columns and longer features, and three booklength works of sports writing. You will write five papers, each of which will go through a drafting, feedback, and revision process. Your papers will not be journalistic accounts of specific athletic events, but writings like those we read and discuss. Your final grade will be determined according to the following percentages:

Paper #1	10%
Paper #2	10%
Paper #3	20%
Paper #4	20%
Paper #5	20%
Participation	20%

Your participation grade will be based on regular class attendance, active participation in class discussion, and oral and written feedback on drafts. Late papers will not be accepted, and all work must be completed in order to pass the course. You are expected to know and abide by the college's policy on plagiarism.

Schedule:

Monday, August 30	Introduction
Wednesday, September 1	Reilly, Introduction to <u>Best Sports Writing 2002</u>
Friday, September 3	Handouts
Monday, September 6	<u>Best Sports Writing 2003</u> , pp. 1-17, 50-68, and 184-203
Wednesday, September 8	Handouts <u>Best Sports Writing 2003</u> , pp. 111-132 and 166-183
Friday, September 10	Draft of paper #1 due
Monday, September 13	Workshop
Wednesday, September 15	Workshop
Friday, September 17	Workshop
Monday, September 20	Bissinger, <u>Friday Night Lights</u> , pp. 1-88
Wednesday, September 22	Bissinger, pp. 89-193 Final of paper #1 due
Friday, September 24	Bissinger, pp. 194-290
Monday, September 27	Bissinger, pp. 291-366
Wednesday, September 29	Bissinger, reviews and reactions
Friday, October 1	Bissinger, videotape of Dickinson talk Draft of paper #2 due
Monday, October 4	Workshop
Wednesday, October 6	Workshop
Friday, October 8	Workshop
Monday, October 11	Final of paper #2 due
Wednesday, October 13	<u>Best Sports Writing 2003</u> , pp. 235-246 and 282-292
Monday, October 18	Krakauer, <u>Into Thin Air</u> , pp. 7-88

Wednesday, October 20	Krakauer, pp. 91-178
Friday, October 22	Krakauer, pp. 181-231 Draft of paper #3 due
Monday, October 25	Workshop
Wednesday, October 27	Workshop
Friday, October 29	Workshop
Monday, November 1	Final of paper #3 due
Wednesday, November 3	Krakauer, pp. 235-301
Friday, November 5	Responses and Krakauer, pp. 307-333
Monday, November 8	TBA
Wednesday, November 10	Draft of paper #4 due
Friday, November 12	Workshop
Monday, November 15	Workshop
Wednesday, November 17	Workshop
Friday, November 19	Armstrong, <u>It's Not About the Bike</u> , pp. 1-96
Monday, November 22	Armstrong, pp. 97-155 Final of paper #4 due
Monday, November 29	Armstrong, pp. 156-258
Wednesday, December 1	Armstrong, pp. 259-289 and reviews & responses Draft of paper #5 due
Friday, December 3	Workshop
Monday, December 6	Workshop
Wednesday, December 8	Workshop
Friday, December 10	Wrap-up and course evaluation
Friday, December 17	Final of paper # 5 due

Some Good Sports Websites:

ESPN	http://espn.go.com
CNN SI	http://sportillustrated.cnn.com
ABC Sports	http://espn.go.com/abcsports
NY Times	http://www.nytimes.com
Boston Globe	http://www.boston.com/globe
Washington Post	http://www.washingtonpost.com
LA Times	http://www.latimes.com
The Sporting News	http://sportingnews.com

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Please answer the following questions:

1. What sport or sports do you play?
2. What sports do you watch regularly?
3. Who are your favorite sports figures, past or present?
4. Do you read about sports regularly? If so, in what publications or on what websites?
5. What sports commentators and/or sportswriters do you like?
6. What sports figures and what sports-related issues/controversies would you like to write about in this course?