

English 102
Inquiry into Sports and Culture
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This course will explore the relationship between sports and American culture, critically considering how that relationship is framed by society, as well as how it manifests itself in day-to-day life. ***Note that this course is not about sports like ESPN is about sports, which means that your knowledge of stats, rules, and player bios will be irrelevant.*** That being said, this course is designed to complement a wide range of experiences, including those of you who have been actively involved in athletics, as well as those of you who don't care to ever set foot into Neyland Stadium. In the course of our inquiry, we will move from personal experience to academic inquiry, using various media and research methods. We will read four novels that use sports to illustrate something about human nature and society, but also look at nonfiction narratives, essays from a variety of fields (psychology, gender studies, anthropology, education, etc.), sports magazines, advertisements, and even movies. Armed with the ability to think about sports through the lens of culture, you will then launch into an extensive research project that asks you to make your own claim about the place of sports in American culture.