

Faculty of Health Sciences  
School of Kinesiology  
The University of Western Ontario  
Kin 3378F / English 2680F  
Sport in Literature – Fall 2014

Dr Don Morrow  
Thames Hall # 4163; phone: 661-4128  
Office Hours: Thurs: 8:30-10:00, or by appointment  
e-mail: [donmor@uwo.ca](mailto:donmor@uwo.ca)  
Course web site is on OWL

Tues 9:30-11:20

Thurs 10:30-11:20

Introduction: Sport Literature is the study of the relationship between sport and life as reflected through fiction, non-fiction, essays and poetry with a focus on sport. The principal aim of the course is the exploration of themes as they are developed in and through sport literature. Another important objective in this course is to develop critical thinking and feeling skills as they emerge in response to the genre of sport literature and in considering the relationship between sport and culture from a variety of perspectives.

Course Readings:

1. Sport Poetry: Each course theme includes poems and in some cases, essays – for analysis; some are provided on the course website under each theme (the course has 11 themes; see Course Themes below). As we go through each theme, I need you to download and print the poems and/or essays for each theme to bring to class for discussion and note-taking purposes.
2. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
3. The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
4. The Professional by W.C. Heinz
5. Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand
6. The Bone Cage by Angie Abdou
7. The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by Stephen King
8. The Good Body by Bill Gaston

\*\* All texts, # 2-8 above, are available in the UWO bookstore and those bookstore editions will be the editions I use for page references in class (in case you find other editions). I will also, from time-to-time, assign web site readings as we go through each course theme. See the note to this effect at the bottom of page 2. In class, I will provide an approximate schedule of dates for when each will be covered so that you have

time to read and prepare in conjunction with other courses and scheduling you might have.

### Course Format and Expectations:

This course is very much taught in the style of a participatory English course. There are 7 novels to read along with essays and poetry; these materials MUST be completed each week as the course progresses. Although all points of view will be encouraged and respected, each individual must be prepared to support and express a point of view based upon a careful and close reading of the written works. The format of each class will involve discussion rather than lecture and everyone will be expected to participate in any and all discussions – silence may be golden but not in this course. Participation in class discussion is mandatory. Literature of any kind is about the human condition expressed in written form. Thus, unlike the sciences or fact-based courses, there are no incorrect points of view; what is important is that you are able to support your point of view.

\*\*\* While the use of computers/notebooks for the purpose of note-taking during class is permitted, the use of the internet, email, twitter, msn, face-book etc. is strictly prohibited. \*\*\* *Audio and/or videotaping of lectures* is not permitted unless approval has been sought from the instructor in advance.

### Learning Outcomes/Objectives

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- a) Describe course concepts and applications to support and literature (Knowledge)
- b) Deconstruct poems, essays, and novels through literary analysis (Comprehension)
- c) Demonstrate an ability to critically assess a poem or essay (Application)
- d) Analyze a full text or novel through thematic analysis (Analysis)
- e) Compare and contrast sport literature writings in alignment with broader categories such as aesthetics, love, exhilaration, participation (Analysis)

### Assignments and Grading:

NOTE: In keeping with the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, all student grades are regarded as strictly confidential between each student and the course instructor. All grades will be posted for each student on OWL; course grade statistics, the number of A+'s, A's, B's etc will also be posted but each student will only be able to view his/her

grade. In the same vein, student papers will be returned to each author in person, in class, or, to the paper's author in my office.

1. Mid-term examination (30 %) The exam is essay and short-answer in style. Date: *Tuesday, October 21st, in class.*
2. Teaching a Poem or Short Essay (10%) You will be paired with either 1 or more, likely 2 other students (dependent on class size) at random, to teach a sport-themed poem or piece of fiction. You will have 15 minutes *to do an analysis regarding the meaning and implications of the piece you select* with the class. The source for your selection will be the *Sport Literature Association Anthology*, posted online in pdf. Details will be covered in class and in a *PDF Guidelines* posted in the Poem Presentation folder in OWL. Presentations will start around *or 3<sup>d</sup> week* in October.
3. Essay:(30%) The essay is *to* a full analysis of either a sport literature novel of your choice (*\*\* approved by the instructor by Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>, no exceptions*), or, a collection of poems/short stories about sport (for example, John B Lee's *The Hockey Player Sonnets* or Richard Harrison's *Hero of the Play*, (*\*\*also to be approved by the instructor by Thursday October 10th*). The assignment will be discussed in more detail in class. Due date for the essay *Thursday Nov 20th, submitted by hard-copy in class on Thursday November 20th and by as an electronic copy in Word format, sent to Assignments link on our OWL site by 4:00 PM on Thursday Nov 20<sup>th</sup>*. Late papers will be deducted 5 per cent per day. All e-versions of your paper will be screened by Turnitin, the leading academic plagiarism checker. See the *plagiarism* below. *\*\* See also the Assignment Description under folder, 'Essay Assignment' in our OWL course website along with 2 essay examples\*\**
4. Final Examination (30%) Essay-style exam; scheduled during the Registrar-Scheduled final examination period in December. Any special final examination requests must be made through your Academic Counselor.

#### Course Framework:

Class discussion will take place according to the broad categories (listed below) rather than according to literary genre. *Each* categories are meant to give a focus to the discussion rather than as a means of *filling* the discussion. The sport poems and/or essays are provided under each theme-heading on *web* site. This is the order in which we will pursue each course theme and each novel over the course of the term:

1. Introduction: overview and examples
2. Fantasy (The Hunger Games)
3. The Participant (The Professional)
4. The Spectator (Seabiscuit)
5. Aesthetics (The Old Man and The Sea)
6. Film and Literature (film analysis...a film selected by class consensus)
7. Sport and Life (The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon)
8. Exhilaration/Love (The Bone Cage)
9. Humour
10. Death and Dying (The Good Body)

Ultimately, no book or poem or essay or movie ~~is~~ "about" sport is really about the sport; rather, these forms of writing represent ~~effort~~ ~~and~~ express the huma

students take an idea, or a page from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar and the note on plagiarism below). All required papers might be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)

B) Computer marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

According to the Examination Conflict policy, "A student who is scheduled to write more than two examinations in any 24-hour period may request alternative arrangements through the office of the Academic Counsellor." *\*This policy does NOT apply to mid-term examinations.* There will be no make-up for the mid-term exam. Students who miss this exam with a valid reason will have the final re-weighted accordingly.

Classroom Behaviour Class will begin promptly at the time specified at the top of page one of this syllabus. In the event that you arrive late, please enter the classroom with a minimal disturbance to the class. I reserve the right to lock the classroom door and deny entrance if lateness becomes a common occurrence. Excessive talking during class time is disruptive, disrespectful, and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in such behaviour may be asked to leave the room. Cellular phones, pagers, and text-messaging devices are disruptive when they are used in class. If you must bring them with you, please place them on silent mode or turn them off during class. Failure to do so may result in your being asked to leave.

Laptops for the purpose of typing lecture notes are permitted in class, but please be respectful to your fellow students and turn the sound off. If you receive complaints from other students regarding noise or other disruptive behaviour (e.g., watching videos on YouTube.com, updating your Facebook status, playing Solitaire), your classroom laptop privileges will be revoked.

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf>

## SUPPORT SERVICES

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. Student Health <http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html>
3. Registrar's Office <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

## ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES

Visit the website <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/english.pdf>

\*\*\* Plagiarism Policy: Excerpted from State Regulations:

“Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). The University of Western Ontario uses software to