

READING CALENDAR.

Each week, we will feature readings from several primary sources, usually three pieces per week. These will be extracted from “The New Yorker”, “The Great American Sports Page” (Library of America), “Sports Illustrated” (Vault), other leading periodicals such as “Esquire”. full length book excerpts—both fiction and non-fiction, and sports-themed anthologies,

Each week will feature a segment on a particular genre of sports writing: from quality fiction, to non-fiction articles by mainstream writers known primarily for “literary” output, to leading book and periodical sportswriters, to sportswriters remembered from the legacy of “The Great American Sports Page.” to unconventional writers/artists/poets, etc.

Several sessions will focus on the increasingly influential role of women in sports and sports writing. Likewise, sessions will feature the pivotal role of Blacks, Hispanics, and other minority groups—long neglected as writers and scholars. A session will be devoted to the pivotal role of Jews in the world of sports writing, less so (but still significant) as athletes.

Each session will be supplemented by documentary footage from the likes of Ken Burns and Bob Kendrick, musical interludes, clips from sports-themed movies, and other visual art.

Live Interview(s) are being arranged.

Each session will provide time for Questions and Answers and other audience commentary.

WEEK ONE: Introduction. Syllabus. Slide Show. Video Clips. Inquiry into unifying themes and patterns of discourse.

WEEK TWO: Segment on “The Great American Sports Page”

<https://loa.org/news-and-views/1505-john-schulian-the-deadline-artists-who-brought-the-sports-pages-to-life>

<https://grantland.com/features/michael-maccambridge-presents-director-cut-gay-talese-classic-joe-dimaggio-profile/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/sports/sporting-scene/the-tokyo-olympics-indelible-moments-of-loss-and-solidarity>

Ken Burns PBS Documentary: Muhammad Ali (in 4 Parts). Try to watch Part One (or more).

WEEK THREE—"The New Yorker" ("Esquire" et al) and the sophistication of sports writing as quality literature. Literary Fiction with sports themes.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/02/17/old-man-3>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1960/10/22/hub-fans-bid-kid-adieu>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/06/09/the-running-novelist>

WEEK FOUR---

"Sports Illustrated" and its stable of iconic sports writers and the books they generated. Sports at the Movies.

<https://www.si.com/horse-racing/2015/01/02/pure-heart-william-nack-secretariat>

<https://www.si.com/nba/2014/08/15/bill-russell-boston-celtics-ring-leader-si-60-frank-deford>

WEEK FIVE

Women break barriers as sports writers and athletes. Jews in the field of sports writing and (less so) as athletes.

Broadcast Media Voices---e.g. Howard Cosell, Mel Allen, Red Barber, Vince Scully, Doris Burke.

<https://vault.si.com/vault/1999/07/12/the-left-arm-of-god-he-was-a-consummate-artist-on-the-mound-the-most-dominant-player-of-his-time-yet-he-shunned-fame-and-always-put-team-above-self-on-the-field-or-off-sandy-koufax-was-pitcher-perfect>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/07/AR2010050704895.html?sid=ST2010050704068>

<https://www.loa.org/news-and-views/1498-jane-leavy-the-man-baseball-forgot-plays-the-hand-hes-dealt>

WEEK SIX

Black, Hispanic and other minority sports writing perspectives. Counter-cultural contributions in sports-writing, poetry, and fiction.

<https://vault.si.com/vault/2000/06/26/laughing-on-the-outside-the-greatest-sluggger-never-to-play-in-the-major-leagues-josh-gibson-was-a-jovial-teammate-but-in-the-end-a-tragic-mystery-to-almost-all-who-knew-him>

<https://hocopolitso.org/2020/10/16/poetry-moment-trouble-on-the-field-with-martin-espa>

<https://vault.si.com/vault/1997/03/17/out-of-the-shadows-like-her-father-the-distinguished-writer-john-edgar-wideman-stanford-point-guard-jamila-wideman-has-had-to-confront-a-dark-family-legacy-while-attracting-the-limelight-with-her-surpassing-gift>

WEEK SEVEN

Sports and Society. Sports as central or as counterpoint to the “Myth of America”

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1955/10/08/ahab-and-nemesis>

WEEK EIGHT

Concluding remarks and sentiments. “Symposium” on the influence of sports writing and sports content in our lives. Beyond nostalgia? Central or peripheral to our identities as humans—whether athletes or fans or both? Sports in the 21st Century—What’s been gained or lost?

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/in-praise-of-doris-burke-basketballs-best-tv-analyst>