

Sports in America: A Humanities Perspective

Sponsored by

The Institute for the Humanities and The Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center

At

Montclair State University

Funded by

 NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

A Series of Programs for High School Students and Teachers.

(The Programs are FREE of CHARGE)

The issue of sports and its role in our society can be looked at through many lenses, but there is no denying that sport in all of its manifestations has a hold on the American psyche. In this series of three panel programs, aimed at New Jersey high school students, teachers and the community at large, we approach the idea of sports from three humanities perspectives: writing (via how sports journalists view their craft and subject); history and culture studies (via a discussion of the role of sports in our culture); and philosophy and ethics (via a panel discussion covering the difficult subject of sports and ethical behaviors and decisions). Each program will include audience discussion followed by a guided tour of the museum.

Sports and Journalism

Thursday, September 28, 2006

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Sports columnists have been consistently influential and important in the history of newspapers in the United States. Some writers, including Ring Lardner and Red Smith, are great journalistic names whose outstanding works are still classics of sports literature. But with the rise of up-to-the-nanosecond media such as the Internet, cable television and home satellite dishes, the public has many new and faster sources for sports news. So the question is: What is the role and importance of the sports writer and his younger cousin the sports broadcaster today?

Panelists: Jeremy Schaap, award-winning ESPN broadcaster; Jerry Izenberg, longtime *Newark Star-Ledger* sports columnist; Harvey Araton, *New York Times* sports columnist

Moderator: Dr. Rita D. Jacobs, Professor of English and Journalism, Montclair State University

Sports and American Culture

Thursday, October 26, 2006

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Various facets of American culture are affected by and interact with the world of sports. Everything from Little League and its attendant community events and rivalries, to the ways in which fans interact with each other and with sporting events to the ways in which films and filmmakers have used sports to make larger points about American society can be analyzed as variants of the ways in which sports influences our lives.

Presenters: Dr. Roberta Newman, Professor of Humanities, New York University, "*Baseball Films on African-Americans as Reflections of Racial Attitudes*" and Dr. Art Simon, Professor of English and Film, Montclair State University, "*From Ballfield to Battlefield: Pride of the Yankees in its War Time Context*"

Moderator: Dr. Lee Lowenfish, Professor of English, City College of New York

Sports and Ethics

Thursday, November 30, 2006

9:00 am to 11:30 am

From the Black Sox scandal of 1919 to Pete Rose's gambling escapades, the history of sports is riddled with events that stand out because they challenge the ethical precepts by which sports are supposedly ruled. In recent years, issues such as the use of drugs, unethical behavior of coaches and some recent Olympic athletes' feud about what exactly constitutes team play have caused even more controversy. This panel will feature an ethicist, two journalists and a university director of athletics discussing ethics and sports, followed by audience discussion.

Panelists: Holly Gera, Director of Athletics, Montclair State University, Dr. Chris Herrera, Professor of Philosophy, Montclair State University, Jonathan Alter, *Newsweek* columnist, and Filip Bondy, *New York Daily News* columnist and Olympics expert

Moderator: Dr. Daniel Bronson, Professor of English, Montclair State University

All three programs are being held at the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center, located on the Montclair State University Campus. Registration and questions about the series should be directed to the Institute for the Humanities.

Telephone: 973-655-7516

E-Mail: inst_hum@mail.montclair.edu

Fax: 973-655-7207

Mailing Address: Montclair State University, Institute for the Humanities, 105 Dickson Hall, Montclair, NJ 07043

Registration Information:

- Pre-registration is required for this program. Complete the registration form and return to the Institute for the Humanities. After we receive your registration information, an e-mail (or fax) confirmation will be sent.
- Schools may register for one program or all of the series. Registrations will be on a first come, first served basis and group size will be limited to a maximum of twelve (12).
- Two (2) hours of Professional Development Credit is offered for each program.
- Return the enclosed registration form by the deadline date, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd. Registrations may be faxed to our office: 973-655-7207 or mailed to the Institute for the Humanities.

This program was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

 **NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**

tear-off

REGISTRATION FORM

“Sports in America: A Humanities Perspective”

Return to the Institute for the Humanities (via e-mail, fax or snail mail)

Name: _____ Department (teachers): _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____ (zip code) _____

E-mail Address (print clearly): _____

WE PLAN TO SEND AN E-MAIL CONFIRMATION FOR THE PROGRAM.

If you do not have an e-mail address, include a fax number, below.

Telephone: () _____ (extension) _____ Fax: () _____

Check Box:

Sports and Journalism, *Thursday, September 28* #attendees: _____

Sports and American Culture, *Thursday, October 26* #attendees: _____

Sports and Ethics, *Thursday, November 30* #attendees: _____

I would like to receive professional development credit for the program (s) attended.

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