

BERKELEY HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY

**GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**SPORTS LITERATURE**

**#0148**

**Curriculum Guide**

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This curriculum may be modified through varying techniques,  
strategies, and materials, as per an individual student's  
Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

Approved by the Berkeley Heights Board of Education  
at the regular meeting held on 9/21/06.

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## PHILOSOPHY/RATIONALE

This one semester course will consist of an examination of sport from several perspectives through interaction with literature presented by sports columnists, the media, and contemporary authors. Although sport is often the subject of technical inquiry, it is equally important to understand the relationship of sport and society. The reading selections in the course are selected to be pleasurable and thought provoking, covering a range of modern fiction, nonfiction, poetry, short stories, biographies, and commentaries. The speaking in this course is designed to be both descriptive and critical in an attempt to provide the student with the opportunity to express personal reactions with confidence and clarity. Through the use of sports literature and other media forms, the primary objective is to develop a greater sensitivity to the world of sport and the philosophical and sociological relationship between that world and contemporary society.

## **COURSE PROFICIENCIES**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To read from a selection of fiction, nonfiction, biography, poetry, short stories, and commentaries. (3.1/12H1,5,7,9,11)
2. To promote weekly discussion based on current events and issues within the sports world. (3.1/12G1,3,4,5; 3.3/12A1-4, B1,2,6, D1-3,6)
3. To reinforce previously learned skills for research and writing. (3.2/12B4,5,6,7, D1,2,7)
4. To participate in a quarterly debate based on an assigned topic. (3.1/12H5; 3.3/12A3, B1,6, D1)
5. To develop a quarterly final project. This activity will consist of an in-depth analysis of an individual sports figure and a documentary film project utilizing research, writing, speaking, and media skills. (3.1/12G1,5, H1,3,4; 3.2/12B4-7, D1,2,7; 3.3/12A1-4, D1)
6. To research the change in ethics and expectations revolving around athletes and their respective sports. (3.1/12H1,3,5; 3.2/12B6,7)

## **STUDENT PROFICIENCIES**

### **Writing**

1. To write at least two different kinds of expository essays: a comparison and contrast essay, and an editorial. (3.2/12B5, D1,2)
2. To write a thematic essay based on the outside reading novels in Unit II. (3.2/12B5,6,7, D1,2)
3. To choose a mode of writing: short story, poem, nonfiction, or fiction and create their own writing piece based on a sport of their choice. (3.2/12D1,2,3)
4. To research an autobiography or a biography and write an expository essay. (3.2/12B5-7, D1,2,7)
5. To research the change in ethics and expectations revolving around athletes and their respective sports. (3.1/12H1,3,5; 3.2/12B6,7)

### **Reading**

1. Students are introduced to various forms of sports reporting through print media: magazine and newspaper. (3.1/12H1,7)
2. To read and analyze poetry. (3.1/12H1,7)
3. To read and analyze short stories. (3.1/12H1,7)
4. To read and analyze narrative, personal, reflective, and persuasive essay. (3.1/12G1,10, H1,5)

### **Speaking**

1. To discuss the significance of current events in sports. (3.1/12H5; 3.3/12A1-4, B1,2,6, D1-3,6)
2. To debate controversies/incidents, which will focus on speaking clearly to a given topic. (3.1/12H5; 3.3/12A3, B1,6, D1)
3. To present synthesized research/material gathered individually or collaboratively. (3.1/12 H1,3,5; 3.3/12A1-4, D1)

### **Listening**

1. Listen to presentations, give feedback, and analyze the material presented. (3.4/12A1,2,3, B4)

## **STUDENT PROFICIENCIES (continued)**

### **Viewing**

1. To examine sports through weekly television, radio, and Internet sources. (3.5/12A1,2,3, B4)
2. To examine contemporary film. (3.5/12A1,2, C1)

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

1. Homework and class work.
2. Class participation.
3. Tests and quizzes.
4. Class activities and projects.
5. Alternate assessments.
6. Teacher observation/questioning/monitoring.
7. Two quarterly projects.
8. Final Exam

**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE/STUDENT OBJECTIVES**

**The student will be able to:**

NJ Core Curriculum Standards/ Grade	Strands & Indicators	Course Outline/Student Objectives
3.1/12 3.2/12 3.3/12 3.4/12 3.5/12	G1,5,7,9,11 H1,3,4,5 B4,5,6,7 D1,2,7 A1,2,3,4 B1,2,6 D1,2,3,6 A1,2,3 B4 A1,2 C1	I. Athlete As Part Of A Team, Community, And Sport (9 Weeks) A. Outside Reading Novels 1. <i>Friday Night Lights</i> by H.G. Bissinger (Week 1–3) 2. <i>In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle</i> by Madeleine Blais (Week 4–6) B. Writing Assignments 1. Two short papers a. an editorial on a Governor Livingston H.S. sporting event b. a comparison and contrast paper on the two required novels 2. Project – sports documentary film - an outline, bibliography, and script, which will be part of a major team presentation (final two weeks of unit) C. Activities 1. Daily current event discussions – based on local newspapers and sport commentaries (television & Internet) 2. Two debates per unit 3. Two to three minute mock/staged interviews 4. One short informative presentation on alternative sports D. Film Selections 1. <i>All the Right Moves</i> in conjunction with <i>Friday Night Lights</i> 2. <i>Hoosiers</i> in conjunction with <i>In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle</i>
3.1/12 3.2/12 3.3/12	G1,5,7,9,11 H1,3,4,5 B4,5,6,7 D1,2,7 A1,2,3,4 B1,2,6	II. Sports And Family - How It Divides Or Bonds (9 Weeks) A. Reading Selection 1. <i>A River Runs Through It</i> by Norman MacLean (Week 1 and 2) B. Writing Assignments 1. Two short papers

3.4/12	D1,2,3,6 A1,2,3 B4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an editorial on a Governor Livingston H.S. sporting event</li> <li>b. student chosen writing mode to exhibit a current sporting event</li> </ul>
3.5/12	A1,2 C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Project – athletes and ethics through the decades</li> <li>II. Sports And Family - How It Divides Or Bonds (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. team project</li> <li>b. each member within each team researches two athletes, one past and one present</li> <li>c. sports to be used are as follows: football, basketball, hockey, and baseball</li> <li>d. decades to be used are: 2000, 1990, 1980, 1970, and 1960</li> <li>e. through the research performed, the students will exhibit how ethics in players and teams have changed through the decades</li> </ul> </li> <li>C. Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daily current event discussions – based on local newspapers and sport commentaries (television and Internet)</li> <li>2. Two debates per unit</li> <li>3. Two to three minute mock/staged interviews</li> <li>4. One short informative presentation on alternative sports</li> </ul> </li> <li>D. Film Selections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>A River Runs Through It</i></li> <li>2. <i>Field of Dreams</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>E. Final Exam Project - presentation on a sport figure, of the students choice, from past or present (preparation during the final three weeks of the quarter – presentations will be given on the day of the exam)</li> </ul>

Note: The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards can be accessed at [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us)

## MATERIALS/RESOURCES

### **Fiction and Nonfiction Selections:**

1. Bissinger, H. G. *Friday Night Lights*. Perseus Books: Cambridge MA, 1990.
2. Maclean, Norman. *A River Runs Through It*. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 1976.
3. Blais, Madeline. *In These Girls, Hope is a Muscle*. Warner Books: NY, 1995.
4. Macy, Sue. *Girl Got Game: Sports Stories & Poems*. Ed. Henry Holt and Company: NY, 2001.
5. Staudohar, Paul D. *Sports Best Short Stories*. Ed. Chicago Review Press, Inc: Chicago, 2001.
6. *Sports in Literature*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Lincolnwood, Illinois: National Textbook Company, 2000.

### **Internet and G.L.H.S Internet Resources:**

1. Sports Illustrated – [www.SI.com](http://www.SI.com)
2. ESPN – [www.espn.com](http://www.espn.com)
3. Star Ledger – [www.njo.com](http://www.njo.com)

### **Films:**

1. *A River Runs Through It* directed by Robert Redford. Sony Pictures DVD 11/99
2. *Hoosiers* directed by David Anspaugh. MGM Home Entertainment. DVD 01/02
3. *All the Right Moves* directed by Michael Chapman. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox. DVD 03/02
4. *Field of Dreams* directed by Dr. Phil Alden Robinson. Universal Studios. DVD 04/98