COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 350: GLOBAL SPORTS NARRATIVES is an interdisciplinary online literature course that explores the wide world of sports and athletic lifestyles. We will examine the way sporting events, participation and spectatorship can shape the way we think about broader issues like illness and health, politics and identity, nationalism and internationalism, celebrity culture and group belonging, and even the mind and the body. This online course introduces students to the full range of social, cultural, political, and even philosophical meanings of sports around the world—from football, wrestling, and baseball, to cricket, horseback riding, hunting, and running, and even the Olympic games and the World Cup. Our texts will tentatively include selections from Homer’s epic poem The Odyssey and Pindar’s ancient Olympic odes; Yukio Mishima’s Sun and Steel; short stories by Ernest Hemingway, Franz Kafka, Julio Cortazar, and Willa Cather; selected modern poetry about sports; and films like Field of Dreams, A League of Their Own, and Hoop Dreams.

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