



Gary M. Pomerantz

Lecturer

Communication

Bio

BIO

Gary M. Pomerantz is a nonfiction author and journalist, and has served the past fifteen years as a lecturer in the Department of Communication at Stanford University.

His sixth and most recent book, *The Last Pass*, a New York Times bestseller about Bob Cousy and the storied Boston Celtics dynasty of the 1950s and sixties, is an intimate story about a basketball icon at ninety coming to terms with his racial regrets.

Pomerantz spent 17 years as a daily journalist, first as a sportswriter for *The Washington Post* where he covered Georgetown University basketball, and the National Football League, and later at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* where he wrote about race, sports, culture and politics, and served for a time on the newspaper's editorial board.

His nonfiction books cover a wide array of topics. The first, *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn*, a multi-generational biography of Atlanta and its racial conscience, was named in 1996 a Notable Book of the Year by *The New York Times*. The book has been optioned and is currently in development as a period drama television series.

Nine Minutes, Twenty Seconds (2001), about an air crash, has been published in Britain, Germany and China, and was termed by *The London Evening Standard* "a flawlessly constructed narrative . . . a masterpiece of non-fiction storytelling."

In 2005 he followed with *WILT, 1962*, a story about race, celebrity and basketball star Wilt Chamberlain's legendary 100-point game. The book returned him to his sportswriting roots, and was an Editors' Choice selection by *The New York Times Book Review*. *The Devil's Tickets* (2009) is a narrative from the Roaring Twenties about a sensational killing and murder trial in Kansas City and the contract bridge craze that swept America. National Public Radio hailed it as "deliciously detailed and splendidly written."

His fifth book, *Their Life's Work*, a narrative about the 1970s Pittsburgh Steelers dynasty that examines football's gifts and costs, was named a finalist for the 2014 PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a bachelor's degree in history, Pomerantz was named as a Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan in 1987-88. Later he served from 1999-2001 as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Journalism at Emory University in Atlanta where he taught courses on news reporting

and writing, and on the history of the American press. As a lecturer at Stanford, he has taught Communication 177SW/277S, Specialized Writing and Reporting: Sports Journalism, and Communication 104: Reporting, Writing and Understanding the News. In winter 2023, he will teach Communication 177SW/277S.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Lecturer, Communication

Teaching

COURSES

2023-24

- Specialized Writing and Reporting: Sports Journalism: COMM 177SW, COMM 277S (Spr)

2022-23

- Specialized Writing and Reporting: Sports Journalism: COMM 177SW, COMM 277S (Win)

2021-22

- Specialized Writing and Reporting: Sports Journalism: COMM 177SW, COMM 277S (Win)

2020-21

- Specialized Writing and Reporting: Sports Journalism: COMM 177SW, COMM 277S (Win)