

Course Syllabus
ENGLISH 2xx: Creative Nonfiction Workshop

I. Introductory Information:

A. Department Name:	English
B. Dept. Catalogue Number:	ENGL2xx
C. Course Title:	Creative Nonfiction Workshop
D. Semester Hours Credit:	3
E. Clock Hours Per Week:	3
F. Overlays	None
G. Restrictions upon Student Registration: and an introductory HONR112)	Composition (ENGL100 or HONR111) literature class (ENGL 110, ENGL220,

II. Course Description:

A. Catalog Description

A workshop that teaches how to use the techniques of fiction writing in the writing of nonfiction.

III. Exposition:

A. Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. read creative nonfiction with a new understanding of the elements of the writing as art and craft.
2. conduct the appropriate research required of writers of creative nonfiction.
3. use the skills of fiction writing (characterization, narrative development, creation of dramatic tension, thematization, etc.) to write nonfiction.

B. Activities and Requirements:

1. Complete at least four creative projects, including a memoir, a personal essay, a literary-journalistic article, and a nature essay.
2. Complete weekly journals and writing exercises.
3. Prepare a final portfolio containing the four creative projects, one full revision, and a self-evaluation.
4. Participate in class activities and successful completion of class assignments.

C. Major Units and Time Allotted:

1. Autobiography/memoir (9 hours)
2. The Personal Essay (12 hours)
3. Literary Journalism (12 hours)
4. Nature Writing (12 hours)

D. Materials and Bibliography:

1. Suggested Textbooks:

- Iversen, Kristen. Shadow Boxing: Art and Craft in Creative Nonfiction.
Prentice Hall: 2003.
Menand, Louis and Robert Atwan, eds. The Best American Essays 2004.

2. Other Materials: none required.

3. Bibliographic Support:

- Capote, Truman. In Cold Blood. New York: Vintage, 1994.
Didion, Joan. Vintage Didion. New York: Vintage, 2004.
Gerard, Philip. Writing Creative Nonfiction: Instruction and Insights from Teachers of the Associated Writing Programs. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 2001.
Gutkind, Lee. The Art of Creative Nonfiction: Writing and Selling the Literature of Reality. New York: Wiley, 1997.
Kitchen, Judith and Paumier Jones, Mary, eds. (Editor), In Short: A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999.
Roorbach, Bill. Contemporary Creative Nonfiction: The Art of Truth. Boston: Oxford University Press, 2001.
Root, Robert L. and Steinberg, Michael. The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers of/on Creative Nonfiction (2nd Edition). New York: Longman, 2001.
Sims, Norman. Literary Journalism. New York: Ballantine Books, 1995.
Wolfe, Tom. The Right Stuff. New York: Bantam, 2001.

IV. Standards and Assessment

Standards:

Grades will be awarded in a manner consistent with university policy, and will be based upon student demonstration of a mastery of the course material through papers, class discussion, and examinations.

Assessment:

Examinations, homework, and papers will be used to assess the objectives in section III.A.

V. Rationale and Impact:

- A. This is a new course, designed to meet the needs of English majors, who have consistently requested additional writing courses in exit interviews.
- B. The course is for English majors, but other students interested in creative writing might take it.
- C. No other department will be affected by the revision of this course.

VI. Cost and Staff Analysis:

- A. There will be no additional costs incurred on university resources.
- B. The course will be offered once a year.

VII. Date approved by University President
