

Course Title: An Introduction to Creative Nonfiction: From Creative Process to Final Draft

Course Code: CNF 49

Instructor: Caroline Goodwin

Course Summary:

Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Score will be determined by student attendance and participation.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
 - Written work, as assigned by the instructor, will determine a student's grade.

Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Class 1: Introductions, Getting Started, Why Creative Nonfiction?

- Discussion: Course structure, your ideas and projects. How to set writing goals and follow through.
- In-class writing exercise and icebreakers. Workshop SignUp.
- For next week: Read Joan Didion's "On Keeping a Notebook," noting concrete imagery, sensory experience, and how Didion transitions between topics. Read LaPlante, Chapter 2.
- WRITE your own list of 12 "Story Spark" life events and develop one into a scene. Bring four copies of your written scene to class next week.

Class 2: The Central Role of the Image in All Vivid Writing

- Discussion: The five senses and how they translate to the page. What kind of Creative Nonfiction will you pursue?

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- In-class writing exercise and small group discussion of your scenes.
- For next week: Read David Sedaris's "Repeat After Me," noting how the writer uses concrete detail to paint a larger picture. Read LaPlante, Chapter 3.
- **WRITE** another five pages of your own creative nonfiction. Bring four copies to class next week.

Class 3: Memory and Writing

- Discussion: Maps and mountaintops, how memories are enlivened by the image. What do you care about? How is your writing surprising you so far?
- In-class reading of your work in small groups. In-class Q&A about process and writing direction.
- For next week: Read Cheryl Strayed's "The Love of My Life," noting moments where sensory details are used and how they affect you as a reader. Read LaPlante, Chapter 14, "Getting Beyond Facts to Truth."

Class 4: Fact and Truth in Creative Nonfiction

- Discussion: Noted moments in Strayed's writing, any questions about LaPlante's claims in her chapter on Creative Nonfiction
- For next week: Read LaPlante, Chapter 13, "Learning to Fail Better," up to p. 556 and Wendell Berry's "Getting Back to Nature."

Class 5: Developing the Voice/Infusing Your Writing with Personality

- Discussion: Berry and LaPlante; any questions about the workshop process
- For next week: Read student writing and make notes to give back to the writer. Work on your own writing.

Class 6: Workshop #1 - Student writing, up to 20 pages each

- Discussion: Student Writing

Class 7: Workshop #2 - Student writing, up to 20 pages each

- Discussion: Student Writing

Class 8: Workshop #3 - Student writing, up to 20 pages each

- Discussion: Student Writing

Class 9: Workshop #4 - Student writing, up to 20 pages each

- Discussion: Student Writing

Class 10: Workshop #5 - Student writing, up to 20 pages each

- Discussion: Student Writing/Future Plans/Sending your work out for consideration by publications

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