



Course Title: Writing the Memoir: Standing on the Shoulders of Giants
Course Code: CNF 09
Instructor: John W. Evans

Course Summary:

My goal for your learning in this class is that you walk out of our last session having done the following:

1. Written about your own life in a meaningful way.
2. Learned many strategies for writing about personal experience.
3. Read and imitated a range of precedents to vitalize your own thinking, reading, and writing.
4. Planned, written, received peer and instructor feedback on, and revised a finished draft of a memoir chapter or personal essay in the memoir subgenre.
5. Written and received peer feedback on 2-3 shorter writing sketches related to the memoir.
6. Practiced giving and receiving helpful individual and workshop peer feedback.

Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:

- No Grade Requested (NGR): Course Work must be completed to receive credit.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC): Course Work must be completed to receive credit.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass): Work assigned by the instructor, as follows, will determine a student's grade:
 - Class Participation (35%)
 - Leading a Class Discussion (35%)
 - Writing Assignments (30%)

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:

Week 1: Course Introductions; the 14-Century Historical "Arc" of the Personal Memoir

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650

First Assignment Due (see course enrollment page).

Readings: Welty, Ozick, Bryson, Updike.

Week 2: The Memoir as a Record of Loss

Short Essay #1 due with copies for all.

Readings: Augustine, Braestrup, Duncan, Didion.

Week 3: The Memoir as a Record of Experience and Transformation

Short Essay #2 due with copies for all.

Readings: Brittain, Boland, McCarthy, Dillard, O'Brien, Ashe, Samet, Martin.

Workshop Short Essay #1.

Week 4: The Memoir as a Record of Place

Sketch due with copies for all.

Readings: Rousseau, Proust, O'Brien, Soyinka.

Workshop Short Essay #2.

Workshop Sketch (small groups).

Week 5: In-Class Writing Lab & Individual Conferences

In-Class Individual Conferences

Writing Lab for Non-Conferencing Students.

Week 6: The Memoir as a Record of Suffering

Readings: Beard, Solomon, McCourt, MacDonald.

Memoir Essay/Chapters due from Students #1-3 (with copies for all).

Week 7: Workshops

Quarter Project Workshops for Students #1-3.

Feedback Letters for Students #1-3.

Quarter Projects due from Students #4-6 (with copies for all).

Week 8: Workshops

Quarter Project Workshops for Students #4-6.

Feedback Letters for Students #4-6.

Quarter Projects due from Students #7-9 (with copies for all).

Week 9: Workshops

Quarter Project Workshops for Students #7-9.

Feedback Letters for Students #7-9.

Quarter Projects due from Students #10-12 (with copies for all).

Week 10: Workshops

Quarter Project Workshops for Students #10-12.

Feedback Letters for Students #10-12.