

# ENG 91: CREATIVE NONFICTION

Winter 2016 • TTH 1:30-3:20pm • Maria Hummel, mhummel@stanford.edu  
Office hours: TTH, noon-1:20pm

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

English 91 introduces the groundbreaking genre of creative nonfiction, focusing on the many and fluid forms of the essay. We'll examine works from across time and nationality for their craft and technique, and then we'll experiment with our own writing exercises. The latter half of the course will be devoted to workshop, in which students read and respond to each other's longer nonfiction projects. Required texts: course reader, available through Copy America, and *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

### Writing assignments (35%)

Three 700-word exercises

One 10-15 page essay that you will revise for the final portfolio

*Late assignments automatically receive a C grade.*

We'll also do in-class writing. Bring paper and pen/pencil to every session and be prepared to share your work.

### Class participation (35%)

You will receive full credit for class participation when you:

- 1) Come to every class **on time**.
- 2) Lead the discussion on one assigned reading, and participate in the rest.
- 3) Write thoughtful 2-3 paragraph critiques of fellow students' 10-15 page essays. Hand them in on the designated workshop day.
- 4) Help to create a supportive but challenging atmosphere in the writing workshop. Snarky comments will not be tolerated.

If you must miss class for illness, sports, etc: 1) let me know in advance. 2) expect some make-up work. Unexcused absences will lower your grade by a half-letter each time, i.e. one unexcused absence knocks A down to A-, etc.

### Final portfolio (15%)

Include the revision of your quarter project, a copy of the first draft, and a 2-paragraph explanation of your revision process.

## Reading attendance (15%)

Attend three readings (poetry, fiction, or nonfiction) on campus this quarter and submit a brief, typed response for each. Sign up for the Creative Writing Events Listserve by going to <http://mailman.stanford.edu> and joining "cw-undergrad"

### ABRIDGED CALENDAR

INTRODUCTION	Jan 5	Joan Didion <i>Good-bye to All That</i> (handout)	
MEMOIR & PORTRAIT	Jan 7	Steve Kuusisto <i>Night Song</i> (handout); Brian Doyle <i>Mr. Kim</i> (handout)	
	Jan 12	James Baldwin <i>Notes of a Native Son</i>	Writing Exercise #1 DUE
	Jan 14	Natalia Ginzberg <i>He and I</i>	
		Small group feedback	
	Jan 19	Rebecca James <i>The Story</i> Patricia Hampl <i>Memory and Imagination</i>	Writing Exercise #2 DUE

### Students with Documented Disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oa>)

### The Honor Code

The Honor Code is the University's statement on academic integrity written by students in 1921. It articulates University expectations of students and faculty in establishing and maintaining the highest standards in academic work:

The Honor Code is an undertaking of the students, individually and collectively:

1. that they will not give or receive aid in examinations; that they will not give or receive unpermitted aid in class work, in the preparation of reports, or in any other work that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of grading;
2. that they will do their share and take an active part in seeing to it that others as well as themselves uphold the spirit and letter of the Honor Code.
3. The faculty on its part manifests its confidence in the honor of its students by refraining from proctoring examinations and from taking unusual and unreasonable precautions to prevent the forms of dishonesty mentioned above. The faculty will also avoid, as far as practicable, academic procedures that create temptations to violate the Honor Code.
4. While the faculty alone has the right and obligation to set academic requirements, the students and faculty will work together to establish optimal conditions for honorable academic work.