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### English (ENGL) 1775 Creative Writing: Nonfiction (3) CSU

Advisory: Successful completion of English 1500 and English 1700 with a grade of 'C' or better

#### Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of Class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course is a creative writing workshop dedicated to the creation of creative nonfiction. Memoir, creative essays, book and film reviews, and creative critical writing will be explored. Course requires analysis of published and unpublished nonfiction, study of the theory of nonfiction, create of original nonfiction, revision of nonfiction, assembling a manuscript of nonfiction, and exploring venues for publishing nonfiction.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Texts: Students will read two works of nonfiction from the following list:

- Adams, Henry. *The Education of Henry Adams*. Feather Trail Press, 2009.  
Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. Houghton Mifflin, 1962.  
Blight, David W. *Frederick Douglass*. Simon & Schuster, 2018.  
Bloom, Harold. *Wallace Stevens: The Poems of Our Climate*. Cornell University, 1995.  
Borges, Jorge Luis. *Selected Non-fictions*. Ed. Eliot Weinberger. Trans. Ester Allen, Suzanne Jill Levine, and Eliot Weinberger. Viking, 1999.  
Brennan-Jobs, Lisa. *Small Fry*. Grove, 2018.  
Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. Reprint edition. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998.  
Easterbrook, Gregg. *A Moment on the Earth: The Coming of Age of Environmental Optimism*. Viking, 1995.  
Eggers, Dave. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. Vintage, 2001.  
Gladwell, Malcolm. *Blink*. Little Brown, 2005.  
Grealy, Lucy. *Autobiography of a Face*. Little Brown, 2005.  
Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts*. Vintage International Edition. Vintage, 1989.  
Nafisis, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. Random House, 2003.  
Nabokov, Vladimir. *Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisited*. Vintage, 1989.  
Sontag, Susan. *At the Same Time: Essays and Speeches*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2007.  
Vonnegut, Kurt. *Wampeters, Foma, & Granfaloons (Opinions)*. Dell, 1989.  
Westover, Tara. *Educated*. Random House, 2018.  
X, Malcolm, and Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. One World/Ballantine, 1992.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Create original nonfiction,
2. Analyze structure of various forms of nonfiction, including memoir, reviews, creative essays, and creative critical pieces,
3. Interpret content of nonfiction,
4. Relate nonfiction to its cultural context,
5. Criticize nonfiction,
6. Synthesize criticism of one's own nonfiction,
7. Revise nonfiction,
8. Prepare a manuscript of nonfiction,
9. Research places of publication for fiction, and
10. Be part of a community of writers.

Course Scope and Content:

- |          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Unit I   | Memoir                       |
|          | A. Theme                     |
|          | B. Introduction              |
|          | C. Uses of dialog in memoir  |
|          | D. Relevance to audience     |
|          | E. Structure of narrative    |
|          | F. Description               |
|          | G. Pacing                    |
|          | H. Flashback/Flashforward    |
|          | I. Backstory                 |
|          | J. Symbolism                 |
|          | K. Description               |
|          | L. Action                    |
|          | M. Voice                     |
|          | N. Ethics                    |
| Unit II  | Film and Book Reviews        |
|          | A. Tone                      |
|          | B. Slant                     |
|          | C. Spoilers                  |
|          | D. Purpose                   |
|          | E. Content of reviewed piece |
|          | F. Form of reviewed piece    |
|          | G. Marketability of review   |
| Unit III | Creative Essays              |
|          | A. Thesis                    |
|          | B. Purpose                   |
|          | C. Audience                  |
|          | D. Thesis                    |
|          | E. Introduction              |
|          | F. Epigraph                  |
|          | G. Description               |

- H. Figurative language
- I. Consonance, assonance, and alliteration
- J. Illustration
- K. Organizational patterns
- L. Style
- M. Voice
- N. Diction

- Unit IV Creative Literary Criticism
- A. Interpretation of content
  - B. Analysis of form
  - C. Standard academic conventions of literary discourse
  - D. Diverging from standard academic conventions of literary discourse
  - E. Voice
  - F. Meta-criticism
  - G. Identifying appropriate audiences/places of publication for creative criticism
  - H. Primary and secondary sources
  - I. Research resources
  - J. Synthesizing research
  - K. Direct quotation, paraphrase, attributive tags, and citation
  - L. Securing rights to use portions of sources when publishing criticism

- Unit V Writing Process
- A. Sources of composition
  - B. Drafting
  - C. Revision
  - D. Editing
  - E. Citation

- Unit VI Evaluation of Nonfiction
- A. Interpretation of content
  - B. Analysis of form
  - C. Evaluation of aesthetics
  - D. Relationship between text and audience
  - E. Cultural context
  - F. Synthesizing criticism from peers for revision of original pieces

- Unit VII Publication
- A. Researching publication venues
  - B. The literary magazine
  - C. Websites
  - D. Blogs
  - E. Small press manuscript contests
  - F. Self-publishing
  - G. Cover letter
  - H. Query letter
  - I. Manuscript format
  - J. Simultaneous submission policies
  - K. Literary agents

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Completing required reading,
2. Writing analysis and imitations of published nonfiction,
3. Creating original nonfiction,
4. Writing critiques of classmates' submissions,
5. Preparing an original manuscript,
6. Observing or participating in an activity related to course content, and
7. Researching venues for publication.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Class meeting will involve brief lecture, discussion and extended group critique,
2. Student selected examples of published works will be discussed for the purpose of demonstrating techniques and establishing standards of evaluation,
3. Student writings will be submitted and distributed the week before submission,
4. Frequent revision will be required,
5. Assignments concerning the theory of nonfiction will be given, and the experiences of professional writers will be considered,
6. Frequent student-instructor conferences via an online discussion group will be conducted and,
7. Guided exploration of literary magazines, websites, and other possible venues for students to submit their work for publication

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial verbal assignments, including:
  - a. Weekly submissions,
  - b. Presentation on selected readings,
  - c. Written and spoken critique of classmates submissions, and
  - d. Submission for publication assignment, delineating a publication's submission policy and including a cover letter and prospective submission by the student.
2. A final project, including:
  - a. A ten page collection of individual work, demonstrating revision, in chapbook form

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	150700: Creative Writing
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline

Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	NO
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	NO
Taft College General Education:	LHUM: Local GE Humanities
Discipline:	English