

## Writing 105C: Creative Nonfiction

**Prerequisites:** Writing 2 or 2E or 2LK; upper-division standing.

**Catalog Description:** Course in creative nonfiction, a prose form whose practitioners consciously merge elements of traditional fiction and nonfiction. Students get extensive practice in reading and composing within this genre.

**Course Description:** Writing 105C focuses on creative nonfiction, a genre of creative writing that merges the techniques of narrative storytelling with journalism, exposition, and/or academic and intellectual discourse. Writing 105C provides sequenced individualized instruction to students from a range of academic disciplines and majors. Students produce reading journals and essay drafts in a variety of nonfiction modes, which include personal essays, travel narratives, lyric essays, memoir, profiles, or a research-based article-length piece. Students conduct primary research, such as interviews, surveys, and observations, as well as secondary research through websites, articles, books, and other media. At every stage of this process students receive detailed feedback in order to help them develop advanced writing skills that are applicable to upper-division courses throughout the university—especially those courses that require extensive expository writing.

**Curricular Premises:** Writing 105C gives students an opportunity to study writing in an interdisciplinary manner while fulfilling the second part of the Area A requirement in the General Education program. In the case of Writing 105C, the genre of creative nonfiction allows students to explore interdisciplinary topics while also honing writing skills and practices used by nonfiction writers. Students entering the course will likely have limited experience with nonfiction writing, so special attention should be paid to providing instruction in the methods used by nonfiction writers, including attention to the research and writing process. Through this instruction, students will gain a better understanding of primary and secondary research strategies, how to engage audiences in that research, and strategies for developing and revising their work. There are few opportunities for students to study nonfiction writing for credit across the university. This course gives students an opportunity to explore nonfiction writing while also developing skills foundational to academic and expository writing.

### **Course Requirements:**

**Texts:** Instructors assign an appropriate selection of books or essays on the craft of creative nonfiction, collections of creative nonfiction essays, and/or a course reader of selected essays on the craft and in the genres.

**Assignments:** Assignments include a range of genres under the creative nonfiction umbrella, such as personal essays, memoirs, profiles, travel essays, and researched, journalistic essays. Students also complete shorter, informal assignments like writing/reading journals. Writing 105C utilizes a balanced combination of assignments,

including equal representation from projects rooted in personal expression and those that are drawn from research.

**Outcomes:**

- understand the range of scholarship, craft, and practice in the field of creative nonfiction
- produce pieces of creative nonfiction based on personal experience and that integrate research from primary and secondary sources
- produce texts in a variety of additional creative nonfiction subgenres, including the personal essay, lyric essay, memoir, flash nonfiction, and other forms
- understand the ethical issues confronting writers of creative nonfiction
- attribute sources correctly and incorporate them effectively in writing
- write clearly and effectively, using language appropriate to the particular subgenre undertaken