English 2005: Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Fall 2014

Instructor: Heidi Blaisdell

Office: K-120e

Office Hours: TBD

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Course Description: An introduction to the art of the personal essay. Topics include critical analysis of a variety of personal essays, crafting personal essays, critiquing peer work, and submitting a final portfolio.

Course Credits: 1 hour

Course Objectives:

- Gain a broader understanding and appreciation of the creative nonfiction genre
- Develop skill in expressing oneself orally and in writing
- Learn to analyze and critically evaluate published essays and peer essays

Required Texts and Materials:

- Access to NS Online site and to NSCC email (check regularly)
- Access to word-processing program (such as Microsoft Word)

Course Requirements:

**Homework:** Read assigned essays and come to class ready to discuss them

**In-Class Work:** In-class assignments will include writing exercises and peer workshops

**Personal Essay:** You will apply some of the creative writing strategies we read about to your own essay. This will be workshopped.
Creative Nonfiction Portfolio: This will include a second personal essay, reflection, and other short assignments.

Grading:

In-Class writing: 20%
Participation: 10%
Personal Essay: 30%
Creative Nonfiction Portfolio: 40%

Grade Scale

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F 0-59

Attendance Policy

- Attending class is necessary in order to pass the course. Missed in-class cannot be made up, and you risk missing important information. If you must miss, contact a classmate to get notes from class.
- You are allowed 2 days of absences—regardless of circumstance. If you exceed this, you will be awarded a grade of FA for the course. Use your allowed absences sparingly (if at all), so that should an illness or emergency arise, you will be able to miss and still pass the course.
  - FA = failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required
  - FN = failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)
- Arriving late to class or leaving class early three times will count as an absence. I will take attendance at the beginning of class, so if you arrive late, make sure to see me after class so I can mark you present.

*I reserve the right to consider extenuating circumstances.*
Plagiarism
Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Some examples of academic dishonesty include:

- Submitting material you did not write
- Submitting papers written for another class
- Submitting papers drafted by you but revised by another
- Failing to properly paraphrase, summarize, quote, or cite sources
- Copying and pasting from sources found on the Internet without properly acknowledging sources.

If I find that an essay or other class assignment has been plagiarized (intentional or unintentional), the student will receive a zero for that assignment. All of your essays will be submitted through Turnitin.com which is a site designed to detect work plagiarized from the Internet.

If a student commits two acts of plagiarism (intentional or unintentional), that student will receive an “F” for the course even if the student continues to attend class and submit other work. The “F” will remain as the final grade.

Zero Tolerance Policy for Disruptive Conduct in the Classroom

- The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity.
- The instructor can dismiss from the class period any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct which violates the rules and policies of the college. If the student refuses to leave, security will be called.
- Disruptive behavior in the classroom that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment is defined as (but not limited to):
  - Offensive written or verbal comments;
  - Offensive gestures or behaviors;
  - Harassment of students or professors;
  - Repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught;
  - Failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum;
- Continued use of any prohibited electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, games, etc.).
- If further action is necessary, the issue may be referred to the Academic Dean or the Dean for Student Services. In these cases, the student will not be permitted back to class without the instructor’s consent.

If you engage in any sort of behavior which I deem to be disruptive, I will ask you to leave the classroom immediately. If you do not leave, I will call security and have you escorted from the classroom. You will not be allowed to return to class until you have spoken with me about your behavior and met with the Dean of Students.

Student Policy: Nashville State Community College has implemented an Early Warning System to notify students via e-mail about academic problems such as poor classroom attendance, poor performance on assignments/tests, poor communication skills, late/missing assignments, and/or lack of classroom participation. Please note that Early Warning Alerts do not affect a student’s academic standing.

Course and Campus Emails: It is the student’s responsibility to check D2L and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

Withdrawing: In order to receive a “W,” you must withdraw by the deadline. If you are considering withdrawing for any reason, please first address your concerns with your instructor to fully understand your options.

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the course.

Course Schedule: TBD

Instructor will assign and provide all readings in the course.