

ENGL214
Mondays 4:00-6:50
Hodges Hall 322

“What happened to the writer is not what matters; what matters is the large sense that the writer is able to make of what happened.” – Vivian Gornick

The writing of a non-fiction narrative is a very personal and extremely rewarding undertaking. With a focus on memoir, this course will provide students with the tools it takes to make a larger sense of what happened through visual narrative, writing prompt and storytelling techniques that make the reader sit up and take notice. Because if you lose the reader, you lose the ballgame.

An emphasis on “visual writing”, structure and storytelling. This is a course that relies on the fact that one cannot become a good writer unless one reads good stories and knows the techniques that good storytellers use. Everything from humorous writing to horror writing will be explored for the student to employ in their writing of personal narratives that are honest, theme-oriented, and evocative. The teachings of Vivian Gornick will be instrumental in helping students write about their personal experiences and the experiences of others. There will also be a section on “Fake News”. How to spot it and what purpose it serves in society .