

ENGL 314 001 NONFICTION WORKSHOP

Class

16:00 - 17:15

Tue, Thu

Clark Hall 206

01/13/2025

05/02/2025

Lecture

The very first thing I tell my new students on the first day of a workshop is that good writing is about telling the truth. We are a species that needs and wants to understand who we are. Sheep lice do not seem to share this longing, which is one reason they write so very little. But we do. We have so much we want to say and figure out.” — Anne Lamott 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. This class provides a structured and encouraging but honest environment wherein writers can get feedback on their pieces and read and critique the work of seasoned writers who have mastered their craft. Students will also listen to the storytelling techniques contained in podcast narratives for the purpose of learning how to utilize narrative moves that are compelling the reader or the listener. 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.

ENGL 214 001

Class

13:00- 14:15

Tue, Thu

Hodges Hall 133

01/13/2025

05/02/2025

Lecture

The goal of this course is to introduce the student to the art of storytelling through writing. Not just to put words on a page, but to take the reader on a journey that the author creates through words, structure, and meaning. This course is based on the belief that the best way to hold a reader's attention for more than a few paragraphs is through the art of storytelling. If you want your reader to stay with you for a newspaper feature story, a full-length magazine article, or a book, you must learn what good storytellers have been doing for thousands of years to make people sit up and listen. As a reader, you know the difference between writing that makes you eagerly turn the page and writing that makes your eyes glaze over. This course is designed to help you write the former.

Introduction to Creative Writing 111 003

11:30 - 12:45

Tue,Thu

Hodges Hall 133

01/13/2025

05/02/2025

We'll kick off with an overview of creative writing principles, discussing what makes a piece resonate with readers. Engage in warm-up exercises to unlock your creativity and set personal writing goals.

Discover the elements of poetry, including form, imagery, and sound. Read and analyze poems from various poets to understand distinctive styles.

Experiment with writing exercises focused on free verse, sonnets, and haikus. Share your work in a supportive environment to receive constructive feedback. Delve into the art of revision and refining your poems. Create a polished portfolio of your best pieces.

Fiction

Explore the fundamentals of fiction, including character development, plot structure, and setting. Analyze short stories to uncover what makes them compelling.

Craft your own short story, focusing on dialogue and voice. Participate in peer workshops to provide and receive feedback.

Learn about the revision process in fiction writing. Finalize your story for sharing in a class reading.

Nonfiction

Unpack the nuances of creative nonfiction, including memoir, personal essays, and narrative journalism. Read exemplary works to inspire your writing.

Write your own nonfiction piece, experimenting with different techniques such as reflection and description. Engage in group critiques to refine your work.

Focus on editing and polishing your nonfiction. Share your final piece in a celebratory reading, embracing the diversity of voices within the class.

By the end of this course, you will have a deeper understanding of the three genres, a collection of original works, and the skills to continue your writing journey. You will leave equipped with techniques for brainstorming, drafting, and revising, as well as the confidence to express yourself creatively.

Who Should Enroll: This course is perfect for anyone curious about creative writing—whether you're a complete beginner or someone looking to refine your skills.