

ENGLISH 314 READING AND WRITING NON-FICTION

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English 314 is an advanced course on reading and writing of non-fiction. We will look at modes of non-fiction: memoir, essay, craft, and topics based material. In this class we will read mostly contemporary American nonfiction (Irby, Beard, Nelson, Jamison, Manguso, Ward, Birkerts, Coates, and Styron). We will study various elements that make nonfiction storytelling shine: characterization, place, thematics, and tonality. English 314 will utilize the workshop model for the analysis of both student and professionally published work. In other words, we will best work together by 1) studying the work of accomplished writers, 2) developing a vocabulary with which to talk about that work, 3) seeking out our own material for nonfiction, and 4) sharing and critiquing each other's work. Be prepared to read and write prolifically, and with generosity and vigor.

