

Cassie Cross

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Office Hours: by appointment

Writing Creative Nonfiction

ENGL 253/4/5, Section A (#1204)
Fall 2013

“We tell ourselves stories
in order to live.”
-Joan Didion

Materials Required:

**Creating Nonfiction: A
Guide and Anthology** by
Becky Bradway and Doug
Hesse
(ISBN: 978-0-312-44706-9)

Any additional readings will
be provided.

Essay Format:

- ✓ typed
- ✓ double-spaced
- ✓ Times New Roman (or
similar) font
- ✓ 12 pt.
- ✓ 1 inch margins

Late papers lose 5 points every
day they are late.

**I do not comment on late
drafts.**

In rare circumstances exceptions
will be made, but you must clear
it with me first.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is grounds for
probation or suspension from
Bellevue College as well as for
failure in this course.

I will not tolerate it, and will
report any instance of plagiarism
I find to the Vice President of
Student Services.

Plagiarism is a
counterproductive, non-writing
behavior that is unacceptable in a
course intended to aid your

Welcome to Writing Creative Nonfiction! Over the 12 weeks of this quarter you will be reading and discussing the works of others as well as writing and sharing your own work. We will look at the different methods and mediums that writers have used to tell their stories. We will examine the ways in which writers use the craft of writing to communicate their message.

We will focus on the craft of the short essay, covering memoir, place writing, profiles, and other formats. We will learn how to build strong narration, develop engaging characters, capture detailed scenes, write realistic dialog, and find a unique and interesting voice.

Writing is a process and in this course you will learn how to do clear and thoughtful revision of your work. This course will rely on a peer review format, where your classmates will respond to your writing and you will give thoughtful comments on your peers' papers as well. Responding to writing—published writers as well as your classmates' work—will help you to think more critically and objectively about your own writing. Ideas, given time and reflection, can develop and grow; in this course you will have the opportunity to make use of the process format and succeed in writing well-informed, highly developed essays. Also, a little creativity never hurts!

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify distinguishing characteristics of creative nonfiction
- Control sentence structure, length, and word choice to create a particular mood, tone and narrative persona
- Identify subjective and objective perspectives in creative nonfiction
- Apply literary devices to personal experience to develop a theme
- Apply literary devices to personal experiences/perspectives to create a narrative veracity
- Explore subjects and theme using variations of subjective and objective perspective
- Critique, revise, and edit works in progress

Required for the Course

There will be three essays required for this course. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Place (2-3 pages)	15%
Profile (2-4 pages)	25%
Memoir (4-5 pages)	25%
Responses	15%
Participation	10%
Peer Review	10%

Participation includes contributing to discussions, turning in work on time, and showing that you have read and understood the material. Peer Review includes making thoughtful, substantive comments on your

growth as an academic writer.

Any instances of plagiarism I find in your essays will result in an immediate failing grade on that assignment, and possible failing grade for the course.

Writing Lab:

The Writing Lab offers one-on-one help with writing, including class assignments, college applications, resumes, and more. Make an appointment by calling ahead (564-2200) or stopping by (D204).

Bellevue College Email and Computer Lab Access:

Your student network account can be used to access your student email, log in to computers in labs, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. bellevuecollege.edu/sam

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. You can find current campus locations for all student labs here:

dept.bellevuecollege.edu/helpdesk/students/classrooms

classmates' papers and completing drafts on time (do not turn in drafts that only amount to one page, do not turn in the same draft twice, etc.)

A Note From The Instructor :

I believe that being a better writer means being a better reader. In this course you won't just be reading *to read*, you'll also be reading *as a writer*. This concept might be unfamiliar at first, but I'd like you to try and pay attention to the parts of the essay, and also notice what techniques the writer was using to communicate his/her message. How did the writer open the essay? How was it organized? What details were used? Once you start seeing how an essay breaks down, it is easy to incorporate the same techniques into your own work.

When was the last time you read something that you couldn't look away from? What about something that made you cry? Or inspired you to make a change in your life? Writing is a powerful tool; it's also a necessary one.

If you have any problems or concerns with your performance in the course, please contact me. Failure to meet deadlines on a consistent basis without communicating with me the reason will result in a significant impact to your grade. Please plan time for troubleshooting computer issues should they arise. With the amount of resources Bellevue College offers its students, there should be very few reasons for late work due to computer malfunction.

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Disability Resource Center:

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is a program of support available to you.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call the reception desk at 425.564.2498. Please visit the website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment, please register with The Disability Resource Center. If you are eligible, you will be provided with an accommodation letter, which you must review with me **the first week of class**. More information can be found at: www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Public Safety:

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>