



English 253

Summer 2012

Instructor: Elizabeth Harazim

Section: OAS **Item:** 1096

REQUIRED TEXTS

Contemporary Creative Non-Fiction: The Art of Truth. Roorbach, Oxford.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 253/4 is an advanced writing course designed to sharpen your skills as a writer in the field of creative non-fiction. To achieve this, in English 253/4 we focus on examples of non-fiction and practice writing in various forms to develop your sophistication and agility as a writer. We will experiment with genre, voice, expression, and rhetorical devices.

You will be reading and writing a great deal, both in class and on your own.

After completing this course, students will be able to...

- Use a variety of methods to create effects in your work
- Revise and edit your writing until the final submitted draft shows the skill and effort you have put into it
- Write for a specific audience with a specific purpose as assigned, using an appropriate voice and tone
- Build an artistic but coherent story around your own ideas and craft
- Use a style appropriate to your story that focuses attention and controls images to the point of creating unity
- Connect scenes to each other; produce a smooth flow of dialog using appropriate techniques
- Construct scenes that develop a story with concrete details
- Analyze, evaluate and interpret complex material
- Use specific techniques found in text to revise essays and scenes
- Construct clear sentences of precise and appropriate words
- Be able to express your personal opinions on another's work
- Be able to self-assess

Primary learning goals:

- Become familiar with rhetorical devices and terminology
- Develop fluency in genres
- Gain exposure to new writers and develop the ability to read critically
- Develop competency in voice, expression and clarity
- Become adept at reading your peers' work and giving feedback
- Strengthen and develop your creative ideas

COURSEWORK

I chose a reader for this course because readers (collections of writings) provide broad exposure to many genres and writers. Our reader for this course is divided into sections by genre; so, we will break up discussions and assignments by genre, too. While genres of course can't be isolated entirely, you will learn about each one and practice writing with a particular genre as your focus.

Together we will work through the texts, decipher passages, discuss writing strategies, rhetorical devices, and the creative writing process.

WRITTEN WORK

JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS

- Journals are an essential exercise in developing your ability to interact with texts and generate ideas.

GENRE PAPERS

- You will practice writing in as many genres as we can fit into the quarter!
- These pieces will be turned in as drafts; because you will be working in groups (called writing circles), you can't turn in drafts late.

REFLECTIONS

- You will turn in occasional self-reflections that discuss your work and your process.

Your final grade will be evaluated as:

10% **Participation**

90% **Written Work**

Grade Scale

A	93 - 100%
A-	88 - 92%
B+	85 - 87%
B	81 - 84%
B-	78 - 80%

C+	75 - 77%
C	71 - 74%
C-	68 - 80%
D+	65 - 67%
D	62 - 64%