

ENGL 4599: Forms of Nonfiction
Professor Courtney Miller Santo
Spring 2022

Do you have thoughts about that Jeffrey Dahmer biopic on Netflix? Or maybe you have things to say about *Euphoria*. Did your opinion about the latest *God of War* game differ from everyone you know? Why did you force all your friends to listen to the latest Taylor Swift album?

You might be a culture critic.

This semester our workshop-style class, Forms of Nonfiction, will explore the history and practice of critical writing. We will read a variety of cultural critics, such as Hanif Abdurraquib, Frederick Douglass, Cathy Park Hong, David Rackoff, Zadie Smith, Susan Sontag, Elissa Washuta, and Virginia Woolf to understand the constituent genres within creative nonfiction. Our focus will be on the relationship between form and content

Students will write several essays as they take on the role of a true critic, which is to extract from a television show, movie, album, video game the meaning it gives to our society and ourselves. We will share these works in the classroom setting where discussion of student work centers around improvement and publication.