

English 4600: Creative Nonfiction Workshop

This is a writing workshop. The focus is on student work in nonfiction. Students will be expected to read the work of their peers and to comment on its effectiveness. Discussion will center on various aspects of the craft of creative nonfiction.

The first two-thirds of the semester will focus on short creative nonfiction of 1000 words or fewer. The emphasis will be on writing. We will forgo the traditional workshop model and instead focus energy on the translation of ideas from the brain to the page. The reading material will primarily be drawn from contemporary literary magazines in online and print.

For the final one-third of the class, students will have the option of working on a longer piece or revising several of their shorter pieces. The emphasis will be on revising and will follow a traditional workshop model.

Attendance and participation are mandatory. By the end of the course, the students should develop the terminology and the critical skills for nonfiction, and should develop a good understanding about issues and trends in the genre.