

English 4599: Forms of Nonfiction (The Flash Memoir/Essay)

Professor Sonja Livingston

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M & W, 2:20-3:45 / Patterson 219

This class examines that various styles and forms of contemporary creative nonfiction writing. This semester, we'll focus specifically on the flash memoir/brief essay as a means of exploring and discussing the limitations and opportunities of creative nonfiction writing. Attention will be paid to form, craft, voice, style and content, with the question—*what makes this literature?*—applied to all we read and write.

Through assigned readings, regular writing prompts and presentations, we'll explore the unique opportunities inherent to creative nonfiction writing. Students will leave the class with a portfolio of short nonfiction pieces suitable for use in applying to graduate writing programs or for expansion into longer memoirs.

Required Text:

Brief Encounters: A Collection of Contemporary Nonfiction

Edited by Judith Kitchen & Dinah Lenney

ISBN: 978-0-393-35099-9