

ENGL 4599 — Forms of Creative Nonfiction



Professor: Sarai Walker
M & W 2:20 to 3:45
Patterson Hall 219

Creative nonfiction is writing about real events, places, and lives in a style that engages readers. Creative nonfiction writers use the techniques of fiction (characterization, dialogue, scene) and the elements of poetry (intense language, associative leaps, experimental form).

This class will combine literary study with creative writing. We will read memoirs, essays and a graphic memoir as a means of exploring and discussing the limitations and opportunities of creative nonfiction writing. Students will write an essay examining one of the books we read together in class. Authors examined include Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Jesmyn Ward and more.

Students will also work on creative writing exercises throughout the semester, culminating in a longer creative piece by the end of the semester, which will be read and critiqued in workshop.