

## ENGL 7601 - Nonfiction Workshop

Often when we hear the word *memoir*, it evokes writing that is sentimental, melodramatic, lurid, or self-indulgent. Memoir may be any of those things--often to the delight and edification of its audience. But in the readings of this class, we will explore the many forms autobiographical writing can take beyond the formula of the bestselling memoir, exploring work that experiments with structure and genre, often questioning the line between fiction and nonfiction. Students will be encouraged to explore their own lives using in-class writing prompts inspired by weekly readings, but a traditional workshop will form the second half of each class period.

Books for this class will include (but are not limited to):

*The Art of Memoir* by Mary Karr

*No Name in the Street* by James Baldwin

*Inferno* by Eileen Myles

*My Body Is a Book of Rules* by Elissa Washuta

*Caca Dolce* by Chelsea Martin

As well as readings from writers including Jamaica Kincaid, Maggie Nelson, Cookie Mueller, Joe Brainard, Anne Carson, and Mary HK Choi.