



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	ENGL
Course Number:	23A
Descriptive Title:	Introduction to Creative Nonfiction
Division:	Humanities
Department:	English
Course Disciplines:	English
Catalog Description:	This course is an introduction to creative nonfiction, which includes memoir writing, literary nonfiction, and the personal essay. Students will study the techniques of creative nonfiction through the examination of diverse authors and will work towards transforming real-life events and experiences into finished narratives using the same techniques as fiction, such as character development, dialogue, setting, and conflict. Students will also practice the creative process, including writing exercises, peer workshop, and revision.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade and Pass/No Pass
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 2018
Transfer UC:	yes
Effective Date:	fall 2021
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area C2 - Arts and Humanities - Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages other than English
Term:	

Other:	
IGETC:	Area 3B - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1</p> <p>Identify and utilize specific strategies for creating characters, setting, point of view, conflict, dialogue, exposition, and themes in nonfiction.</p> <p>SLO #2</p> <p>Compose an 8-20 page creative non-fiction narrative demonstrating their competency with those elements of non-fiction.</p> <p>SLO #3</p> <p>Revise their creative nonfiction narrative based upon evaluations received from their peers and the instructor.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and define techniques in creative nonfiction writing. 2. Identify and define elements of nonfiction. 3. Analyze nonfiction works written by significant writers. 4. Evaluate and critique the writing of peers for elements of nonfiction. 5. Create a portfolio of nonfiction writing.
Major Topics:	<p>I. Introduction to Creative Nonfiction (15 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Evaluate the genre of creative nonfiction including memoir writing, literary nonfiction, and the personal essay B. Define conflict and narrative tension C. Define scenes D. Recognize and describe scene transitions and vantage point E. Recognize setting including attention to atmosphere and narrative voice <p>II. Instruction in Reading, Evaluating, and Analyzing Nonfiction Models (10 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Assess the development of characterization in narrative nonfiction B. Evaluate plot development, conflict, and narrative tension C. Rate the use of point of view, vantage point, and setting D. Judge the use of atmosphere through attention to tone and mood E. Rate the techniques for reinforcing theme F. Evaluate the entire story G. Analyze nonfiction models for common creative nonfiction techniques and elements <p>III. Review Grammar and Manuscript Form (5 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Define and distinguish between run-on sentences and fragments B. Recognize correct usage of quotations and other punctuation C. Review correct manuscript form for final short stories

	<p>1. Discuss current helpful manuscript software options</p> <p>IV. Instruction in Peer Editing and Workshop (14 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Read for strength of story elements in student work B. Evaluate and critique student work</p> <p>V. Create a Portfolio (10 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Compose conflict, narrative tension, and themes for nonfiction narratives B. Organize content of nonfiction narratives C. Compose exercises in dialogue or scene analysis for nonfiction narratives D. Compose exercises using visual aids or other experimental techniques as prompts E. Compose revision of nonfiction narratives from comments received by peers and instructor</p>
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	<p>1. Name Exploration Essay: Write a brief (600-1000 words) portrait of yourself through an exploration of your name. Perhaps you've heard it whispered, screamed, or mispronounced. What is it like to be called by your name? Do you resemble your name? Are you misnamed? Should you be called something else? Alternatively, write a portrait of the name of someone else, a name that stirs in your head. Incorporate aspects of tone through attention to narrative voice in order to make your name or someone else's name come alive to the reader. For every piece of "basic information" that you give, provide a detailed description to show how that information helps to make your name or the name of someone else more real to the reader.</p> <p>2. Immersive Writing Activity: (600-1000 words) Immerse yourself in an experience or environment you want to write about but are unfamiliar with. For example, spend a few hours at an autobody shop or in a cosmetology classroom, or explore the boardwalk in Venice Beach. Take notes on the setting, along with all the sensory details you observe and experience. Compile an organized and vivid verbal portrait of the place you chose to experience.</p>
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	<p>Assignment: The Ghost Story</p> <p>Write an 8-20 page personal narrative on the nature of being haunted. Consider the various things that haunt us: secrets, lies, loss, unanswered questions or mysteries related to persons or places we know well; actual ghost stories that are told to us as children possess the power to haunt us as do our dreams and nightmares. What still haunts you today? What about this haunting interests or troubles you? Might a worthy subject be one that interests you equally as much as it troubles you? Will your exploration into your haunt include research, revisiting a physical location, rummaging through archives (an old box of photos, year-old text threads), or allow for opportunities</p>

	for interviews? Include at least one scene in the essay. Here are some ideas: an inconsistency in family history; a person or object gone missing; a time you lied to someone; a time when someone told you the truth and you couldn't accept it; a social norm or belief in the place where you grew up.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	The Workshop Practice: Constructive Critique Read the set of student-written nonfiction narratives distributed to you in class. As you read, annotate the margins of each narrative with your analysis of the narrative's use of conflict, character, vantage point, setting, scene creation, dialogue, and narrative voice. Include your suggestions for revising the narrative. Be prepared to defend your analysis and suggestions orally during our class workshop.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Journal kept throughout course, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture
If other:	Writing workshop
Work Outside of Class:	Journal (done on a continuing basis throughout the semester), Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	<p>Burns, Catherine. <u>The Moth Presents All These Wonders</u>. Crown Archetype, 2017. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard</p> <p>Roorbach, Bill. <u>Writing Life Stories</u>. 2nd ed. Story Press, 2008. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard.</p> <p>Oates, Joyce Carol. <u>The Best American Essays of the Century</u>. Mariner Books, 2001. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard.</p> <p>Zinsser, William. <u>On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction</u>. 7th ed. Harper Collins, 2006. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard,</p> <p>Lamott, Anne. <u>Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life</u>. 2nd ed. First Anchor Books, 1995. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard,</p> <p>Jones, Mary. <u>In Short: A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction</u>. W.W. Norton & Company, 1996. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard,</p> <p>LaPlante, Alice. <u>The Making of a Story: A Norton Guide to Creative Writing</u>. 2nd ed. W. W. Norton & Company, 2010. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard,</p> <p>Abercrombie, Barbara. <u>Kicking In the Wall</u>. New World Library, 2013. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard,</p> <p>Goldberg, Natalie. <u>Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within</u>. Shambhala, 2005. Qualifier Text: Discipline Standard.</p> <p>Febos, Melissa. <u>Body Work: The Radical Power of Personal Narrative</u>, Catapult, 2022.</p>

Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	Budget for printing copies of stories for workshop.
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
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Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	<p>This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</p> <p>Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts.</p> <p>Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.</p>
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Rhea Lewitzki
Date:	09/26/2017
Original Board Approval Date:	12/18/2018

Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Mora Mattern, Ashley Gallagher
Date:	09/26/2023
Last Board Approval Date:	12/18/2023
Effective Term:	FALL 2024