GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

ENGLISH 135 – CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING II

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

ENGL 135 Creative Nonfiction Writing II 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

A “C” grade or higher or “Pass” in English 134 or equivalent.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

The second in a four-course sequence, this intermediate level class is designed to further skill development in the study, analysis, and application of tools, techniques, principles, and forms used by established and contemporary authors of creative nonfiction. By composing and submitting original creative nonfiction, students use the writers’ workshop to further develop competency both as critics and writers of creative nonfiction. Students have opportunities for recognition, publication and public readings of their own work. Students may enroll in this class without having to enroll in the later courses in the sequence.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Identify and analyze, both orally and in writing, the tools, techniques, and forms used by professional practitioners of short literary nonfiction writing, including narrative structure, authorial voice, setting, description, characterization, dialogue, and theme;

b. Identify and employ techniques of invention;

c. Craft creative nonfiction utilizing tools, techniques, and a variety of forms;

d. Evaluate benefits of criticism of their own work and demonstrate application in consequent revisions;

e. Demonstrate competency to critique other students’ creative nonfiction, both orally and in writing;

f. Identify and describe aesthetic criteria for creative nonfiction;

g. Performatively read their own writing aloud;

h. Demonstrate competency in college-level grammar, punctuation, and mechanics used in creative nonfiction writing.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

a. Access to a computer, the Internet, and word processing with capacity to save/export as Portable Document Format (.pdf) and/or Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx).

b. Collegiate dictionary and thesaurus.

c. Writing materials and copies of texts for workshop.

7. Course Content

a. Invention, composition, and revision of creative nonfiction at an intermediate level, amounting to approximately 12,000 words per semester.

b. Various tools, techniques, and forms of creative nonfiction, including narrative structure, authorial voice, setting, character, theme, narration and plot, language and style.

c. Written and oral critical commentary of peers' original creative nonfiction.

d. A diversity of creative nonfiction by emerging, established, and contemporary writers, in print and/or online chapbooks, books, anthologies, literary magazines, and journals.

e. In-class writing exercises.

f. Critical essays on the discourse of creative nonfiction writing.

g. Strategies for performatively reading creative nonfiction.

h. Practice in assembling a portfolio of creative nonfiction.

i. Research and activities pertaining to publishing.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture by instructor, visiting writers, and media.

b. Writers’ workshop: Students sit in a circle. Selected writer reads original creative nonfiction aloud and discussion follows. A student may be designated by the instructor to commence discussion for each work. Generally, selected writers do not speak until work has been discussed by peers and addressed by instructor. Once creative nonfiction is workshopped, the writer has the opportunity to respond and ask questions. Lastly, manuscript with written commentary is returned to its author. Cycle repeats with next selected writer.

c. Discussion and writing exercises based on tools, techniques, and forms of creative nonfiction.

d. Discussion and reading aloud of creative nonfiction by emerging, traditional, and/or contemporary authors.

e. Individual conferences.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Student writing and revision of creative nonfiction.

b. Participation in writers’ workshop, both orally and in writing.

c. Participation in class discussion and writing exercises such as modeling based on published authors.

d. Completion of a creative nonfiction portfolio (including exercises, drafts and revisions as a final project.

e. Performative reading of original creative nonfiction composed for the class, presented as part of a final examination.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Reading and studying of work by emerging, established and/or contemporary creative nonfiction practitioners.

b. Composing and revising works of creative nonfiction.

c. Reading and writing critiques of classmates’ creative nonfiction.

d. Researching material for works of creative nonfiction.

e. Craft and imitation exercises.

f. Attending and/or participating in campus and community literary events and readings.

g. Submitting manuscripts to the Grossmont College literary journal, *Acorn Review*, as well as researching online and print publication opportunities.

11. Representative Texts

a. Representative Text(s):

1. *Acorn Review Literary Journal.* 2019-2020 Grossmont College.
2. Kitchen, Judith and Dinah Lenny. *Brief Encounters with Contemporary Nonfiction*. W.W. Norton and Company, 2015.
3. Miller, Brenda and Suzanne Paola. *Tell It Slant: Creating, Refining, and Publishing Creative Nonfiction.* 3rd ed. McGraw-Hill Education, 2019.
4. Monroe, Debra. *Contemporary Creative Nonfiction: An Anthology.* Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2019.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

1. Brewer, Robert Lee, ed. *Writer's Market 2020.* Writer's Digest Books, 2020.
2. Strunk Jr., William. *The Elements of Style*. Ed., Michele Poff. Tip Top Education/Curriculum Publishing, 2017.
3. Williford, Lex and Michael Martone. *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction*. Simon and Schuster, 2007.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. At an intermediate level, identify and employ elements of creative nonfiction and use specific details from memory, imagination, knowledge, and research to invent, draft, revise, and reflect upon creative nonfiction in a variety of forms.
2. Use the writers’ workshop to evaluate their own manuscripts as well as the manuscripts of others (both orally and in writing) to continue growth as critics and writers of creative nonfiction.
3. At an intermediate level, discuss and assess the content and form of works by emerging, established, and/or contemporary authors.