GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

ENGLISH 136 – CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING III

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

ENGL 136 Creative Nonfiction Writing III 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 135 or equivalent.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

The third in a four-course sequence, this advanced level class is designed to expand student proficiency in the study, analysis, and application of tools, techniques, and forms used by established and/or contemporary writers of creative nonfiction. By composing and submitting original works of creative nonfiction, students use workshop to deepen their skills as critics and emerging authors of creative nonfiction. Students have opportunities for 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. Analyze, both orally and in writing, the tools, techniques, and forms used by professional practitioners of creative nonfiction, including narrative structure, authorial voice, setting, description, characterization, dialogue, and theme;

b. Identify and employ various techniques of invention;

c. Compose shortliterary nonfiction utilizing tools, techniques, and a variety of forms, both, traditional and experimental;

d. Evaluate benefits of criticism of their own work and demonstrate proficiency in multiple revisions;

e. Critique other students’ creative nonfiction, both orally and in writing;

f. Articulate aesthetic criteria for creative nonfiction;

g. Demonstrate advanced skills in performatively reading their own writing;

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

i. Pursue publication of their writing online or in print.

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 advanced level, amounting to approximately 12,000 words per semester.

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

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

d. A diversity of creative nonfiction by emerging, established, and/or 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 ordering and assembling a portfolio of creative nonfiction.

i. Research and activities on publishing and potential markets.

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 a variety of forms of creative nonfiction, including traditional and experimental.

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. Active participation in writers' workshop, both orally and in writing.

c. Advanced participationin 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 readingof 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 writers.

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.

i. Research resources and outlets for recognition and publication of their own works.

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 advanced 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 traditional and experimental forms.
2. Use the writers’ workshop to evaluate their own manuscripts as well as the manuscripts of others (both orally and in writing) to demonstrate proficiency as critics and writers of creative nonfiction.
3. At an advanced level, interpret, assess, and synthesize the content and form of works by emerging, established, and/or contemporary authors.