

Cincinnati Christian University
Foster School of Biblical Studies, Arts & Sciences

ENGL 250 01 CREATIVE WRITING: NON-FICTION

Credit Hours: 3

Meeting Times: WF 11 – 12:15

Location: WM 121

Term: Fall 2018

Instructor: Paul Friskney

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Course Rationale

Because of the many values the medium of writing offers, it is important that Christians develop communication skills in this area. First, writing offers the individual the chance to express himself or herself and analyze thoughts in order to critique and strengthen them. Also, the medium of writing makes it possible for an individual to reach a much larger number of people than could be reached through person-to-person contacts. Finally, different forms of writing appeal to different types of people, so mastering many forms can help to reach more people with the message of Christ as well as to strengthen, encourage, and challenge those already committed to Him.

Course Description

Creative Writing: Non-Fiction is a survey course examining various types of inspirational and expository writing. Students will produce these types, including personal experience stories, personality profiles, devotional writing, editorial writing, and historical/Biblical narratives. Prerequisites: ENGL 110, ENGL 111 or their equivalents.

Arts & Sciences Departmental Outcomes

CCU's Arts & Sciences program is designed to prepare students to

1. communicate effectively in both oral and written forms in a variety of rhetorical contexts, including Standard English,
2. adeptly utilize modern research and writing tools,
3. identify decisive events and ideas in the human experience and assess their influences on modern culture and thought,
4. employ critical and creative thinking and mathematic and scientific principles for problem solving, literary and socio-cultural analysis, intercultural understanding, and research in the sciences and humanities,
5. demonstrate the integration of academic insights and experiences by constructing and employing a personal framework in which ethical decisions can be made in light of societal values and a Christian worldview.

Course Objective

The student who satisfactorily completes this class should be able to

1. demonstrate an understanding of non-fiction writing by passing tests on various types and aspects of writing (connected to A&S Outcome #1),
2. make use of appropriate style and content considerations in writing (A&S #1),
3. produce examples of the following types of articles: personal experience, profile, inspirational, devotional, historical/Biblical narrative, “how-to,” and editorial (A&S #1 & 2),
4. develop the ability to present material in front of others (A&S #1),
5. demonstrate the ability to prepare an article for publication (A&S #2).

Principal Text

Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction, 2nd edition, by Sondra Perl & Mimi Schwartz

Grading Breakdown

Writing Assignments	-50%
2 Tests	-20%
Journal	-10%
Daily Participation	-10%
Article for Publication	-10%

Class Policies

1. As a rule, late work will not receive a grade. However, each student must submit all major assignments in order to pass the course. (Work is considered late if it is not submitted by 4 p.m. on the due date.)
2. If special circumstances require late submission, the student should consult the instructor prior to the due date.
3. If a student misses a scheduled test without making previous arrangements with the instructor, a penalty may be given. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule a makeup exam date.
4. Each absence will result in a lowered class preparation grade unless an exception is granted by the instructor. Seven hours of absence will result in dismissal from class. If students are late, it is their responsibility to check with the instructor after class to indicate attendance. Being late three times will equal an absence. If a student is present for less than half of a class, it is considered an absence.
5. Specific details for individual assignments will be given as each assignment approaches. If students do not understand an assignment or section of class

- discussion, it is their responsibility to ask for clarification, either during the class session or in private consultation in the instructor's office.
6. Students who require academic accommodations due to any documented physical, psychological, or learning disability should request assistance from the Student Services Department within the first two weeks of each semester. The Student Services Department is located on the upper level of Presidents Hall. You may also contact the office by phone (244-8150). Tutoring services in various subjects are also available.
 7. The professor reserves the right to change or amend any part of this course plan as deemed necessary. This includes adjustments that may need to be made following Sneak Day. However, if a class is cancelled, students should be ready with the assigned work the next time the class meets.

Course Agenda

(Special circumstances may require changes in the agenda.)

August	29	Intro to Course
	31	Creative Nonfiction: A Writer's Viewpoint (<i>WT</i> , Chp.1)
September	5	A Writer's Journal (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 2)
	7	A Writer's Ideas & Strategies (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 3)
	12	Personal Experience Writing (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 4)
	14	Personal Experience Writing: Examples (<i>WT</i> , TBA)
	19	Information Gathering (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 9)
	21	Finding Your Voice (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 5)
		DUE: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ARTICLE
	26	Profiles
28	Profiles: Examples (<i>WT</i> , TBA) & Review	
October	3	TEST #1
	5	Fall Break (No Class)
	10	Listening & Responding to Other Writers (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 6)
	12	Other Storytelling Techniques (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 8) & Review
		DUE: PROFILE
	17	Historical/Biblical Narratives (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 10)
	19	Historical/Biblical Narratives: Examples
	24	Inspirational Writing (<i>WT</i> , TBA)
26	DUE: HISTORICAL/BIBLICAL NARRATIVE Inspirational Writing Workshop	

	31	Devotional Writing DUE: INSPIRATIONAL ARTICLE
November	2	Devotional Writing Workshop
	7	“How-To” Writing (<i>WT</i> , TBA) DUE: DEVOTIONAL ARTICLE
	9	“How-To” Writing Workshop
	14	Editorial Writing DUE: “HOW-TO” ARTICLE
	16	International Conference on Missions
	21/23	Thanksgiving Break (No Class Meetings)
	28	Editorial Writing: Examples (<i>WT</i> , TBA)
	30	Rethinking & Revision (<i>WT</i> , Chp. 7) DUE: Rough Draft of Editorial
December	5	TEST #2
	7	Marketing & Manuscript Preparation DUE: EDITORIAL
	12	Presentation of Projects
	14	Presentation of Projects DUE: JOURNAL
		Exam Period DUE: ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION & MARKETING SHEET

SEMESTER ASSIGNMENTS:

JOURNAL – Each student is required to keep a **daily** journal. Each reading assignment should be summarized and critiqued as one day’s entry. Also, five responses to additional articles, tapes, or videos about writing should be included. These reviews should evaluate the piece based on class discussions and personal criteria. Other journal assignments may be made by the instructor during the course of the semester. The remaining entries are the choice of the student.

ARTICLE for PUBLICATION – Each student will choose one of the forms discussed during the semester to develop into an article for publication. The content of the article should be decided through consultation with the professor. Before submitting the written form, the author will read the material as an in-class presentation (along with providing context for the material) and engage the rest of the class in discussion of the material and the process involved in the writing of it. The written version should be prepared according to criteria discussed in class and submitted with a proposed market for the material.