



## HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Creative Writing: Nonfiction  
COURSE NUMBER: WR 240  
COURSE CREDITS: 4  
RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: WR 121

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Introduces students to writing creative nonfiction, adapting the personal essay to multiple purposes, such as science or nature writing, travel writing, memoir, biography, and journalistic essay. Prose craft exercises, critical reading of published authors and responding constructively to other student work are essential learning processes.

After the completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

**Outcome 1:** Identify and practice the elements of creative nonfiction, incorporating both invention and fact, subjectivity and objectivity, personal feelings and universal themes, story-telling and reporting, with the dual goal of entertaining and informing the reader.

**Outcome 2:** Identify and practice the various sub-genres of the personal essay, such as memoir, biography, literary journalism, science or nature essay, and travel writing or essay of place.

**Outcome 3:** Identify and demonstrate various organizational structures in nonfiction writing, such as chronology, classification, process, cause-effect, comparison-contrast, problem-solution, and collage or mosaic.

**Outcome 4:** Demonstrate the ability to use dialogue in crafting and fostering character, conflict and action.

**Outcome 5:** Identify and practice the incorporation of research from publications, interviews, personal observation and field work into the personal essay.

**Outcome 6:** Demonstrate a working knowledge of presentational variation, such as description, dialogue, analysis and self-revelation while maintaining consistent persona and point of view.

**Outcome 7:** Produce at least 40 pages total for the quarter, including two essays of 8-12 pages in different sub-genres, craft exercises, reading responses to professional essays, and peer critiques.

**Outcome 8:** Practice reading, analyzing and evaluating nonfiction by other writers, including both published essays and works by fellow students; and demonstrate the ability to give constructive criticism and suggestions for revision to peers in a supportive, discerning and helpful manner in the context of a cooperative workshop session.

**Outcome 9:** Complete at least one (formal or informal) written assessment of the student's own creative writing strengths and weaknesses, including effective strategies for improvement.

**Outcome 10:** Develop discipline for a creative writing practice, including inviting and fostering creative opportunity (calling the muse).