

ENG-W 311: Writing Creative Nonfiction

Course Schedule (Spring 2021)

For the first three weeks of the semester (January 18 through February 7), we will meet fully online at this Zoom link:

<https://iu.zoom.us/j/3584545003>

Starting Tuesday, February 9, and for the rest of the semester, we will meet in person in KC 270 every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10:00am sharp. (Please note that there is no Spring Break this semester.) I reserve the right to alter reading assignments and due dates depending on the pace at which we're moving and other considerations. However, I will *always* give plenty of advance notice of any changes to the course schedule through a Canvas announcement and, wherever possible, during class meetings. Readings are "due" on the class meetings next to which they are listed.

January 2021

T, 1/19: Course introductions, icebreakers, etc. Course syllabus overview: expectations, assignments, due dates, policies & procedures, WDs. Purchase textbook.
*WD#1 discussed

R, 1/21: What is creative nonfiction? Read Chapter 1, *Creating Nonfiction* and Rax King, "Love, Peace, and Taco Grease: How I Left My Abusive Husband and Found Guy Fieri" (click link for full-text essay)

T, 1/26: Read Chapter 2, *Creating Nonfiction*

R, 1/28: Read Martone, "Manufacturing Place" (CN, pp. 571-576, including interview) and write a workshop letter to Martone for practice (due F, 1/29)

February 2021

T, 2/02: Read Almond, excerpt from *Candyfreak* (CN, pp. 157-170, including interview); Chapter 3, *Creating Nonfiction*

R, 2/04: Read Chapter 3, *Creating Nonfiction* (pp. 46-54), WD#1 due (workshop drafts) before 11:59pm EST in Canvas on Friday, 2/05 (WD#2 assigned)

T, 2/09: In-class drafting workshop (WD#2) and **Workshop #1 (Crimson Group)**

(***First day of in-person instruction)

R, 2/11: In-class drafting workshop (WD#2) and **Workshop #1 (Crimson Group)**

T, 2/16: Read Wallace, "Consider the Lobster" (CN, pp. 755-773, including interview)

R, 2/18: Chapter 4, *Creating Nonfiction*

T, 2/23: Teaching Project Day 1 _____, Read Martinez, "Inherit the Earth" and "The Things They Carried" (CN, pp. 567-570)

R, 2/25: Teaching Project Day 2 _____

March 2021

T, 3/02: Teaching Project Day 3 _____, Read Orlean, "A Place Called Midland" (CN) and Chapter 5, *Creating Nonfiction*

R, 3/04: Teaching Project Day 4 _____, Read Gilbert, excerpt from *Eat, Pray, Love* (CN), WD#2 due (workshop drafts) before 11:59pm EST in Canvas on Friday, 3/05 (*WD#3 discussed)

T, 3/09: **Workshop #2 (Cream Group)**

R, 3/11: **Workshop #2 (Cream Group)**

T, 3/16: **Workshop #2 (Crimson Group)**

R, 3/18: **Workshop #2 (Crimson Group)**

T, 3/23: Read Chapter 6, *Creating Nonfiction*

R, 3/25: Teaching Project Day 5 _____, Read Mazza, "A Girl among Trombonists" (CN)

T, 3/30: Teaching Project Day 6 _____, Read Chapter 7, *Creating Nonfiction*

April 2021

R, 4/01: Teaching Project Day 7 _____, Read Chapter 8, *Creating Nonfiction*, WD#3 due (workshop drafts) before 11:59pm EDT in Canvas on Friday, 4/02

T, 4/06: Teaching Project Day 8 _____, Read Chapter 9, *Creating Nonfiction*, (*Final Portfolio discussed)

R, 4/08: **Workshop #3 (Cream Group)**

T, 4/13: **Workshop #3 (Cream Group)**

R, 4/15: Read Engelberg, excerpt from *Cancer Made Me a Shallower Person* (CN)

T, 4/20: Read Chapter 10, *Creating Nonfiction*

R, 4/22: Read Birkerts, “Reflections of a Nonpolitical Man; or Why I Can’t in Good Conscience Write about Noam Chomsky” (CN)

T, 4/27: Read Mailer, “The Faith of Graffiti” (CN, pp. 537-566, including interview)

R, 4/29: Read [Thompson, “The Kentucky Derby Is Decadent and Depraved”](#) (click link for full-text essay)

***There is no final exam in this course, so we will not be meeting during our scheduled final exam period. However, please remember that completed Portfolios are due in Canvas before 11:59pm EDT on Friday, 4/30. Have a great summer!