

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*3090	Course Title: Writing autobiography and creative essays	Date of Offering: FALL 2017
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Course Professor: Lawrence Hill	Course Format: Creative Writing Workshop
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Students will write creative essays and autobiographical portraits, share them with peers, offer constructive and respectful evaluations of their peers' work, and submit one revision. Each week, students will read at least one excerpt of a professionally published creative essay or autobiography, and assess it from intellectual, ethical and especially artistic perspectives. Is the material engaging, dynamic, authentic and believable? What sort of risks is the writer taking? Which writing styles prove most effective, and why? Which literary approaches engage the reader less successfully, and why? What fictional techniques do some of these writers bring to bear in creating non-fiction? Students will be encouraged to borrow from, experiment with and playfully alter some the creative writing techniques displayed by the professional writers.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Writing Exercise 1 (500 - 750 words): 10 %
Writing Exercise 2 (750 - 1,000 words): 10 %
Autobiographical Portrait (1,500 - 2,000 words) : 20 %
Creative Essay (2,000 -3,000 words): 20 %
Revision of Autobiographical Portrait: 10 %
Peer Evaluation: 15 %
Workshop Participation: 15 %

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Students will read the work of their peers and use a course pack drawing from:

Best Canadian Essays, Eds. C Doda and J Kertes, Tightrope Books (2016)
The Best American Essays, Ed. J Franzen, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2016)
The Classic Slave Narratives, Ed. HL Gates, Signet Classics (2012)
Southern Selves: A Collection of Autobiographical Writings, Ed. JH Watkins, Vintage (1998)
This is the Story of a Happy Marriage, Ann Patchet, HarperCollins (2013)
Bad Feminist, Roxane Gay, HarperPerennial (2014)

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: