

**CAMOSUN COLLEGE - COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2007**  
**ENGLISH 152 (01)**

**CREATIVE WRITING: INTRODUCTION TO WRITING CREATIVE  
NONFICTION**

**Instructor:** Christine Kirchner  
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Office Hours: Thursdays: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
or by appointment.

**Class Meets:** Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Young 227

**Workload:** 3 hrs. in class; 1 hr. lab per week; 6 hrs. out of class per week.

**Pre or Corequisite:** English 150.

**Course Description:** This course offers students with strong writing ability an opportunity to explore and develop their skills and possible goals in writing major nonfiction forms, such as features, memoir, travel, personal essay, history, and social analysis.

**Learning Outcomes:** At the end of the course the students will have learned to

- analyse, at a beginner's level, what it means to write creative nonfiction.
- practice the writing process appropriate to creative nonfiction.
- produce essays and articles that go beyond facts and explore the world in a personal and creative way.
- write the truth in a style that is as accurate and informative as reportage, yet as personal, provocative, and dramatic as fiction.
- consider the role of the audience in the development of style and content.
- pay attention to readability and interest in the production of writing: to produce writing that is intended to be read by a general audience.
- Use effective research techniques including conducting penetrating interviews and using electronic research tools.

**Texts: Required**

Dinty W. Moore, *The Truth of the Matter*, 2007.

Jon Krakauer, *Into the Wild*, 1996.

English 152 Course Package.

**Recommended**

Muriel Harris and Joan Pilz, *Prentice Hall Canada Reference Guide to Grammar and Usage* or similar MLA guide.

**Evaluation:** each assignment will be preceded by *detailed* instructions:

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| 1. Memoir Essay (due on Thurs., Oct. 4)                                | 15% |
| 2. Literary Journalism Essay (due on Thurs., Oct. 25)                  | 15% |
| 3. The Personal Essay (due on Thurs., Nov. 15)                         | 15% |
| 4. Book Review (due on Thurs., Nov. 22)                                | 10% |
| 5. Query Letter (due on Thurs., Nov. 29)                               | 5%  |
| 6. Travel Article (due on Thurs., Dec. 6)                              | 15% |
| 7. Lab Work = Author Readings (due one week after the reading)         | 15% |
| 8. Participation (class, writing workshops, attendance, etc.--ongoing) | 10% |

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100%

**Grading System:**

A+	=	90-100%	B-	=	70-72%
A	=	85-89%	C+	=	65-69%
A-	=	80-84%	C	=	60-64%
B+	=	77-79%	D	=	50-59%
B	=	73-76%	F	=	Below 50%
			I	=	Incomplete

**Students' Responsibilities:**

1. Attend class regularly (phoning or relaying a message if unable to be present). Attendance will be recorded each class.
2. Contribute to class discussion; request assistance; and encourage and assist other students.
3. Read closely and critically all assigned readings from the text *before* class.
4. Complete all assignments *before* class (as they are due at the beginning of each class).
5. **All assignments must be completed for credit in this course. Failure to complete even one assignment will result in a failing grade in the course.**
6. Hand work in on time (at the beginning of class on the due date). Late submissions must be negotiated and will be penalized 5% per day, counting weekends, up to a maximum of five (5) weekdays, after which they will not be accepted.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of MLA documentation. Plagiarism is a violation of academic ethics which results in serious penalties; therefore, it is vital to give credit where credit is due. Use research/reference materials to support your ideas, not replace them, and make sure your documentation is accurate. For College policies regarding plagiarism, see Student Conduct Policy, "Academic Misconduct," in the Camosun Student Calendar.

**Instructor's Responsibilities:**

The instructor will adapt the course appropriately, function as a senior learner, share her own ideas and writing, stimulate and support the learning of others, give every opportunity for success, provide clear instructions and examples for assignments, comment helpfully, return work promptly, and treat students with respect, fairness, and honesty.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

- Thurs., Sept. 6** Course Introduction  
The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction  
Interviewing and Writing Exercise
- \* Author Reading Assignments: p. 124 (CP).
- Thurs., Sept. 13** **Unit I: Memoir**
- READ:** pp. 3 - 7 Chapter One, "True Stories, Innovative Forms" in *The Truth of the Matter* (Moore)  
pp. 65 - 73 Chapter Seven, "The Memoir Essay" (Moore)
- The "Blocks Exercise"
- \* Memoir Assignment: pp. 118 – 119 (CP).
- Thurs., Sept. 20** **READ:** pp. 286 - 91 "Memoir? Fiction? Where's the Line?" by Mimi Schwartz (Moore)  
pp. 24 – 29 "I Told You When I Came I Was a Stranger" by Susan Musgrave (CP)
- Thurs., Sept. 27** **READ:** pp. 8 - 18 Chapter Two, "What Makes Nonfiction Creative?" (Moore)  
pp. 103 - 4 "Alive" by Laurie Lynn Drummond (Moore)
- Memoir Workshop**
- Thurs., Oct. 4** *Memoir Essay is due (15%) at the beginning of the class.*
- Unit 2: Literary Journalism**
- READ:** pp. 21 – 28 Chapter Three, "Building Blocks of Creative Nonfiction: Detail and Description" (Moore)  
pp. 74 – 83 Chapter Eight, "The Literary Journalism Essay" (Moore)
- \* Literary Journalism Assignment: pp. 118 – 119 (CP).
- Thurs., Oct. 11** **READ:** pp. 29- 41 Chapter Four "Building Blocks of Creative Nonfiction: Characterization and Scene" (Moore)  
pp. 276 - 278 "Making the Truth Believable" by Tracy Kidder (Moore)  
p. 31 "Nothing's sacred at Safeco" by Jack Knox (CP)
- Thurs., Oct. 18** **READ:** pp. 32 - 39 "The Incident" by Lee Gutkind (CP)
- Literary Journalism Workshop**

- Thurs., Oct. 25**      *Literary Journalism Essay is due (15%) at the beginning of class.*
- Unit 3: The Personal Essay**
- READ:** pp. 84 - 92 Chapter Nine, “The Personal Essay” (Moore)  
pp. 41- 44 “The Hero(ine)’s Journey” by Janet Greidanus (CP)
- \* The Personal Essay Assignment: pp. 118 – 119 (CP).
- Thurs., Nov. 1**      **READ:** pp. 42- 51 Chapter Five “Building Blocks of Creative Nonfiction: Distinctive Voice and Intimate Point of View” (Moore)  
pp. 54 – 62 Chapter Six “Building Blocks of Creative Nonfiction: Discovery” (Moore)
- Thurs., Nov. 8**      *Course Survey*
- The Creative Nonfiction Novel and The Book Review
- READ:** *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer  
pp. 125-127 “Not everybody’s a critic” by Richard Schickel (CP)
- \* The Book Review Assignment: pp. 122 – 123 (CP).
- The Personal Essay Workshop**
- Thurs. Nov. 15**      *The Personal Essay is due (15%) at the beginning of class.*
- Unit 4: Travel Writing**
- READ:** pp. 46- 48 “Breaking into Travel Writing” by Peat O’ Neil (CP)  
pp. 49 - 58 “Types of Travel Articles” (CP)  
pp. 59 – 112 Examples of Travel Articles (CP)
- \* The Travel Article Assignment: pp. 118 – 119 (CP).
- Thurs., Nov. 22**      *Book Review is due (10%) at the beginning of class.*
- READ:** pp. 113 - 114 “Travel Like A Travel Writer” (CP)  
pp. 115 - 116 “The Travel Journal” (CP)
- \* The Query Letter Assignment: pp. 120 – 121 (CP).
- Thurs., Nov. 29**      *Query Letter is due (5%) at the beginning of class.*
- Travel Article Workshop**
- Thurs., Dec. 6**      *Travel Writing Article (15%) is due at the beginning of class.*
- FINAL CLASS WRAP UP.