



**School of Arts & Science**  
**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**  
**ENGL 152-01**  
**Creative Writing: Non-Fiction**  
**2008F**

## COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ [elmquistl@gmail.com](mailto:elmquistl@gmail.com)

Ω Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only.  
 It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Laurie Elmquist		
(b)	Office Hours:	10:00 -11:50 Monday and Wednesday		
(c)	Location:	Paul 332		
(d)	Phone:	370-3355	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	<a href="mailto:elmquist@camosun.bc.ca">elmquist@camosun.bc.ca</a>		
(f)	Website:	<a href="mailto:elmquistl@gmail.com">elmquistl@gmail.com</a>		

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

*(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)*

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Produce clear and interesting writing that is to be read by a general audience.
2. Practice writing creative non-fiction.
3. Critically analyze the creative nonfiction process.
4. Produce essays and articles that go beyond facts and explore the world in a personal and creative way.
5. Write non-fiction in a style that is as accurate and informative as reportage, yet as personal, provocative, and dramatic as fiction.
6. Evaluate the role of the audience in the development of style and content.
7. Conduct interviews and use electronic tools in order to research various topics.
8. Submit a query for a manuscript to a publisher.

### 3. Required Materials

Texts

- 1 *Tell It Slant*: Writing and Shaping Creative Nonfiction by Brenda Miller, and Suzanne Paola
- 2 English 152 Course Pack (to be purchased at the book store)

## Recommended Materials

An 8 ½ x 11 Hilroy notebook, **80 pages**, three-hole punched. It will clip easily into your binder along with your course pack, and will serve as your writing journal.

3-ring binder

## 4. Course Content and Schedule

(Can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

### Fall Schedule (2008)

### Creative Nonfiction Engl. 152

Date	Readings <sup>1</sup> , Assignments, Discussion Topics
<b>Week One</b> Tues. Sept. 2	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome to the class</li></ul> Where to Begin <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Introduction pp. vii -xi in your textbook, <i>Tell it Slant</i>.</li><li>An overview of different types of creative nonfiction: <i>Creative Nonfiction at a Glance</i> (handout)</li></ul>
Thurs. Sept. 4	Getting Started with D2L (lab) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Online Activities #1-#4</li></ul> <b>Writing about a Person</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 1, "The Body of Memory" pages 3-16</li><li>David Sedaris "The Drama Bug" (handout)</li></ul>
<b>Week Two</b> Tues. Sept. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 12, "The Basics of Good Writing in Any Form" pages 135-150</li><li>Scott Russell Sanders "Buckeye" (handout)</li><li>Richard Selzer "The Knife" (course pack)</li></ul>
Thurs. Sept. 11	Writing the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 2, pages 17-24</li><li>Bret Lott "Brothers" (handout)</li></ul>
<b>Week Three</b> Tues. Sept. 16	<b>Due: Assignment #1: Writing about a Person</b> (memoir) Copy posted to D2L by 9 a.m. and paper copy to me in class.
Thurs. Sept. 18	<b>Writing About an Issue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 10, pages 105-113</li><li>Margaret Atwood "Nine Beginnings" (course pack)</li></ul>
<b>Week Four</b> Tues. Sept. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chapter 11, "The Basics of Personal Reportage," pages 117-132</li><li>The Collage Essay: Lisa Arrastia "This is American and Strange" (course pack)</li></ul>
Thurs. Sept. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Hermit Crab Essay/Braiding</li><li>Susan Olding "Separation" (course pack)</li></ul>
<b>Week Five</b> Tues. Sept. 30	<b>Due: Assignment #2: Writing about an Issue</b> (lyric) Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your essay for in-class critique.

<sup>1</sup> All readings must be done *ahead* of class. Please come to class ready to discuss them.

	Hand in one unmarked copy to me.
Thurs. Oct. 2	<b>Writing about Place</b> (memoir/nature writing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3, 'Taking Place': Writing the Physical World pages 25-38</li> <li>Barbara Kingsolver "The Memory Place" (course pack)</li> </ul>
Tues. Oct. 7	Travelogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pico Iyer "Where Worlds Collide" (course pack)</li> </ul>
Thurs. Oct. 9	Travelogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daniel David Moses "Rain in Hawaii" (course pack)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Seven</b> Tues. Oct. 14	<b>Due: Assignment #3: Writing about Place</b> (memoir or nature writing or travelogue) Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your essay for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.
Thurs. Oct. 16	Chapter 8, "The Particular Challenges of Creative Nonfiction," pages 73-90
<b>Week Eight</b> Tues. Oct. 21	<b>Author Reading</b>  <b>Due: First Portfolio: 3 finished essays</b>
Thurs. Oct. 23	<b>Due:</b> One-page response to Author Reading  <b>Writing about "What We Aren't Told"</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 9, The Personal Essay, pages 91-104</li> <li>Memoir <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sherman Alexie "Superman and Me" (course pack)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Week Nine</b> Tues. Oct. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Meditative Essay Susan Musgrave "Twenty Meditations on Stones" (course pack)</li> </ul>
Thurs. Oct. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Humour <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drew Hayden Taylor "Pretty Like a White Boy: The Adventures of a Blue-Eyed Ojibway"</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Week Ten</b> Tues. Nov. 4	<b>Due: Assignment #4 "What We Aren't Told"</b> Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your essay for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.
Thurs. Nov. 6	<b>Writing the Larger World (in the lab)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 5 "Gathering the Threads of History" pages 47-52</li> <li>Terry Tempest Williams "The Clan of One-Breasted Women" (course pack)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Eleven</b> Tues. Nov. 11	<b>Remembrance Day</b> <b>College is Closed</b>
Thurs. Nov. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7: "Writing the Larger World" pages 61-70</li> <li>Annie Dillard "Total Eclipse" (course pack)</li> </ul>
<b>Week Twelve</b> Tues. Nov. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erika Vidal, "Undressing Victoria" (course pack)</li> </ul>
Thurs. Nov. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Due: Assignment #5 Writing the Larger World</b> Please bring <u>four</u> copies of your essay for critique. Hand in one unmarked copy to me.</li> </ul>

<b>Week Thirteen</b> Tues. Nov. 25	<b>Author Reading</b>
Thurs. Nov. 27	<b>Publishing (in the lab)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing an essay for submission</li> <li>• Writing a cover letter and biography</li> </ul>
<b>Week Fourteen</b> Tues. Dec. 2	<b>Due:</b> One-page response to Author Reading <b>Hand in your 2<sup>nd</sup> portfolio: two finished essays</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Class Reading</b></li> </ul>
Thurs. Dec. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Class Reading</b></li> </ul>

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

*(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)*

### (a) Assignments

First drafts	10%
Author readings	10%
Midterm portfolio	30%
Final portfolio	30%

### (b) Participation in peer editing and class reading 20%

## 6. Grading System

*(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)*

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>d</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

## 7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED