

	School of Arts & Science ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CRWR 152 Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction Winter 2017
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COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html>

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Sara Cassidy		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tuesday 2 – 3 p.m.		
(c)	Location:	320 Paul Building		
(d)	Phone:		Alternative Phone:	250-886-9427
(e)	Email:	CassidyS@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:	www.saracassidywriter.com		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Produce clear and interesting writing for a general audience.
2. Produce creative non-fiction writing at a beginner level.
3. Critically analyze the creative nonfiction process.
4. Produce essays and articles that explore the world in a personal and creative way.
5. Read, analyze, and discuss published works of creative nonfiction.
6. Evaluate the role of the audience in the development of style and content.
7. Conduct interviews and use electronic tools in order to explore various topics.
8. Submit a query for a manuscript to a publisher.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Texts: Readings are all online, and free.
- (b) Other: Dictionary (preferably Oxford), thesaurus (preferably Roget's). Easily found in secondhand bookstores and thrift shops.

1. Course Content and Schedule (subject to change)

"I write to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see, and what it means." – Joan Didion

"The Brain is deeper than the sea—

For—hold them—Blue to Blue—

The one the other will absorb—

As Sponges—Buckets—do—"

- Emily Dickinson, from *The Brain – is Wider than the Sky*

Readings must be done before the class in which they are to be discussed. Assignments must be submitted online before the beginning of the class on the due date.

Classes generally include a short creative writing lecture, one or two in-class "free writes," opportunities for class discussion and sharing work with peers.

Note that your assignments must reflect readings and class lectures and discussions.

NOTE: In calendar below, readings are in italics. Assignment due dates in bold.

January

10 Introduction. Blog#1 started (Topic: something carried)

12 Creative non-fiction – introduction. Workshop groups created.

17 Memoir. Reading: *Biography of a Dress* Jamaica Kincaid. Detail and description. Blog#1 workshopped.

19 Memory and the senses.

23 Reading *Now We are Five* David Sedaris. **Blog#1 posted.**

25 Scene. Blog#2 started.

30 Dialogue.

February 2: Self-editing. **Blog#2 workshopped.** Assignment 1 assigned.

7 Memoir, continued. McCourt/Dillard/Hughes/Livingstone. **Blog#2 posted.**

9 Reading: *Mirrorings* Lucy Grealy

14 Reading break

16 Reading break [send Assignment 1 to Sara and your workshop members]

21 **Assignment 1 workshopped.**

23. Personal Essay. Reading: *It Not Only Rises, It Shines* Julie Paul. **Blog#3 started.**

28 Reading: *Living Like Weasels* Annie Dillard. **Blog#3 workshopped.** Assignment 1 submitted.

Assignment 2 assigned.

March 2: Author visit: Julie Paul.

7 **Blog #3 posted.** Travel writing. Reading TBD.

9 Assignment 2 workshopped.

14 *Notes of a Native Son* James Baldwin

16 **Assignment 2 due.** Blog#4 started.

21 Literary Journalism. Reading: *The Clan of the One-Breasted Woman* Terry Tempest Williams. Blog#4 workshopped. Assignment 3 assigned.

23 Reading: *42 Tattoos* by David Shields.

28 Reading: *The Search for Marvin Gardens* by John McPhee. **Blog#4 posted.**

30 Marketing your writing.

April 4 Assignment 3 workshopped.

6 Presentations.

11 Presentations. **Assignment 3 due.**

13 Party with writing games and readings.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(This section should be directly linked to the Intended Learning Outcomes.)

(a) Assignments

Four blog posts x 10% = 40% (Cowbird) (Includes reflection on writing and workshopping and self-editing)

Three creative non-fiction pieces x 15% = 45% (First draft, 10%. Final, 5%)

Peer critiques = 10%

Presentation= 5%

(b) Quizzes - None

(c) Exams - None

(d) Other: Attendance: Assignments will not be marked if attendance falls below 80%

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point
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			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 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 3rd 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.

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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED