

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR 152 Intro to Creative Nonfiction

CLASS SECTION: D01

TERM: Fall 2021

COURSE CREDITS: 3 Credits

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Asynchronous Online Delivery

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək'wəḡən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

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Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

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NAME: Laurie Elmquist

EMAIL: [elmquist@camosun.ca](mailto:elmquist@camosun.ca)

OFFICE: Paul 332

HOURS: Wednesday 10-11 a.m.

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

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This course offers students an opportunity to develop their skills in writing major creative nonfiction forms, such as features, memoir, travel, personal essay, history, and social analysis. Students will write creative nonfiction in a style that is as accurate and informative as reportage, yet as provocative and dramatic as fiction.

### PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in [English 12](#)
- C in [Camosun Alternative](#)

### Equivalencies

- ENGL 152

### CO-REQUISITE(S):

### EXCLUSION(S):

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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Upon completion of this course the student 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 to explore various topics.
8. Submit a query for a manuscript to a publisher.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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- (a) *You Can't Make This Stuff Up* by Lee Gutkind (Da Capo Press, 2012)  
(b) Journal (any kind of notebook to be used for writing)

## COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<b>Week One</b> Tues. Sept. 7 to Sun. Sept. 12	<b>What is Creative Nonfiction?</b>  Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction: How to Read this Book (textbook -- pp. xv- xviii)</li><li>• What is Creative Nonfiction? The Birth of the Godfather (pp. 3-4)</li><li>• The Definition Debate (pp. 5-8)</li></ul> <b>Why Are Scenes Important?</b>  Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Building Blocks (pp. 105-106)</li></ul>	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Yellow (Highlighting) Test (pp. 107-108)</li> <li>• A Memorable and Famous Scene (pp. 109-113)</li> </ul> <p>Week One Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.1 Discussions: Student Intro</li> <li>• 1.2 Discussions: Annie Dillard</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Two</b></p> <p>Mon. Sept. 13 to Sun. Sept. 19</p>	<p><b>The Writer's Persona</b></p> <p>Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fastest Growing Genre pp. 9-13</li> <li>• The Creative Nonfiction Pendulum: From Personal to Public pp. 55-60</li> <li>• To Highlight or Not to Highlight: That is the Question, pp. 114 - 123</li> </ul> <p>Week Two Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Journal #1: So I grew up in...</li> </ul>	<p>Journals are submitted to <b>Assignments</b>. You will see this spot on the Navigation bar at the top of the course where you find such topics as <b>Content, Discussions, Grades</b>, etc.</p>
<p><b>Week Three</b></p> <p>Mon. Sept. 20 to Sun. Sept. 26</p>	<p><b>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</b></p> <p>Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truth etc. pp. 14-43</li> </ul> <p>Week Three Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.1 Journal #2: Conflict</li> <li>• 3.2: Discussions: Truth</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Four</b></p> <p>Mon. Sept. 27 to Sun. Oct. 3</p>	<p><b>Due: Essay 1- Memoir</b></p> <p><b>Vivid Details</b></p> <p>Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <p>Intimate Details pp. 124-134</p>	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<p><b>Week Five</b></p> <p>Mon. Oct. 4 to Sun. Oct. 10</p>	<p><b>Big Public Story</b></p> <p>Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Public or "Big Idea," pp. 61 - 64</li> <li>• Widening the Pendulum's Swing pp. 65 - 68</li> <li>• The Creative Nonfiction Way of Life pp. 69 - 77</li> </ul> <p>Week Five Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.1 Journal #3: COVID-19</li> <li>• 5.2 Discussion Post: Pandemic</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Six</b></p> <p>Mon. Oct. 11 to Sun. Oct. 17</p>	<p><b>Critique</b></p> <p>Readings: Roxane Gay: <i>Remember, No One Is Coming To Save Us</i></p> <p>Week Six Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.1 Discussion Post: Roxane Gay</li> <li>• 6.2 Journal#4: Racism</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Seven</b></p> <p>Mon. Oct. 18 to Sun. Oct. 24</p>	<p><b>Due: Essay #2</b></p> <p><b>Creative Nonfiction Dance (story+ information)</b></p> <p>Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Creative Nonfiction Dance pp. 135 -139</li> <li>• Now Let's Dance pp. 140- 151</li> <li>• <i>Yellow Taxi</i> by Eve Joseph, pp. 169 - 182</li> <li>• Reflection pp. 183 - 185</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Eight</b></p> <p>Mon. Oct. 25 to Sun. Oct. 31</p>	<p><b>Critique</b></p> <p>Week Eight Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.1 Critique your group members' Essay #2: Cultural Criticism</li> </ul>	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
<p><b>Week Nine</b></p> <p>Mon. Nov. 1 to Sun. Nov. 7</p>	<p><b>Due: The Midterm Portfolio</b></p> <p><b>Revision: Frame and Focus</b></p> <p>Readings from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Difficult Decisions</i> pp. 140 - 151</li> <li>• Framing pp. 218 - 225</li> <li>• Focus pp. 226 - 229</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Ten</b></p> <p>Mon. Nov. 8 to Sun. Nov. 14</p>	<p><b>Personal Essay</b></p> <p>Readings: Dina Nayeri's essay, <i>A Literal Hell Constructed for Children</i></p> <p><i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passion and Practice, pp. 47 - 48</li> <li>• The Rope Test, pp.48 - 51</li> <li>• Fall Down Nine Times, pp. 51 - 54</li> </ul> <p>Week Ten Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10.1 Discussion Post: Dina Nayeri</li> <li>• 10.2 Journal #5: Family Member</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Eleven</b></p> <p>Mon. Nov. 15 to Sun. Nov. 21</p>	<p><b>Segmented Structure</b></p> <p>Reading: Tim Bascom's Picturing the Personal Essay: A Visual Guide (link)</p> <p>Week Eleven: Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11.1 Discussion: Metaphor (Discussions Post)</li> <li>• 11.2 Journal #6: Two Segments</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week Twelve</b></p> <p>Mon. Nov. 22 -- Sun. Nov. 28</p>	<p><b>Due: Essay #3</b></p> <p><b>Style</b></p> <p>Readings: from <i>You Can't Make This Stuff Up</i> by Lee Gutkind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation, p. 129-134</li> </ul>	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Shocking Truth of the New York Times, pp. 201 -203</li> </ul> Kurt Vonnegut <i>How to Write with Style</i> (online)	
<b>Week Thirteen</b>  Mon. Nov. 29 to  Sun. Dec. 5	<b>Critique</b>  Week Thirteen: Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13.1 Critique your group members' personal essay (Essay #3)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week Fourteen</b>  Mon. Dec. 6	<b>Publication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A time to catch your breath, send out your work to publishers.</li> <li>Congratulations on all the work you've done this term. Three full-length CNF articles is more than most people write in a year, let alone 14 weeks.</li> </ul>	
Sun. Dec. 12	<b>Due: Final Portfolio Sunday, Dec. 12 at midnight</b>	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

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DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
First Versions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First versions are the best version of CNF that you can submit for peer critique. They are not first drafts.</li> </ul>	6
Discussion Responses	12
Journals	12

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Peer Critique	10
Midterm Portfolio	30
Final Portfolio	30
	<b>TOTAL</b>
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.  
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

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## COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

All work must be handed in by the due date to earn completion marks. Late portfolios will be deducted 5 per cent per day. After five late days, midterm and final portfolios will not be accepted for grading and the work will receive a zero.

Plagiarized work will receive a zero.

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## SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

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## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

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## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>

Support Service	Website
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

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## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.



### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this Syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.