

English 414
Special Topics in Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction
Spring 2023 Semester
MW, 2:30-3:45 PM, Curtin Hall, Room 221

Course Prerequisites

May be retaken w/change in topic to 9 credits max. May not be retaken for major credits. Students may not enroll concurrently in a second section of English 414 or in English 415, 416, 615, or 616.

Prerequisites: Junior standing; satisfaction of GER English Composition competency req; English 233(P), 234(P), 235(P), or 236(P); or grad student.

Section Specific Prerequisite Enforcement

Prerequisite Enforcement: Junior standing or greater; GER English Composition Competency; English 233(P), 234(P), 235(P), or 236(P); or Graduate standing; or Special Students. (No concurrent enrollment allowed in English 415, 416, 615, or 616).

Required Course Text

Monroe, Debra (Ed.). An Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction. Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company, 2020. ISBN13: 9781524980092

Available via the publisher's website at:

<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/contemporary-creative-nonfiction-anthology>

Available via eCampus at:

<https://uwm.ecampus.com/contemporary-creative-nonfiction-monroe/bk/9781524980092&pos=1>

Note: On the publisher's website, the cost of the e-book is \$38. 59, and the cost of the print copy is \$77.18. On the eCampus website, the cost of the print copy (the only format currently available) is \$74.29.

Course Description

Creative Nonfiction focuses on real events that a writer has either directly experienced or has learned about in various forms, such as observation and research, that are connected to the writer's life. Essential elements of the Fiction genre are employed, including a narrative plot structure with scenes (people and subjects in action), memorable and descriptive details, and character development. However, an important difference between the two genres is that successful Creative Nonfiction requires the portrayal of 'truth' (what has actually occurred), along with thoughtful reflection of the events on the writer's life, to convey meanings and significance that go beyond individual experience.

In this course, students will write several forms of Creative Nonfiction, including memoir, topical writing, the 'braided' essay (that includes multiple, related story lines), and flash nonfiction. Students will read articles about the craft on Canvas, read examples of Creative Nonfiction essays in the anthology, and examine at least one chapter of a memoir by Vel Phillips, the first African American and first woman to be elected to Milwaukee's Common Council. Class discussions based on readings, exercises, journal writing, and research will provide guidance and source material for the written assignments.