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ENG 2001-001

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ENGLISH 2001

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I. TEXTS:
The Elements of Autobiography and Life Narratives [EALN]
Tell It Slant [TIS]
Literary Nonfiction [LN]
The Art of Truth [AT]

II. ASSIGNMENTS (with appropriate grade % for each):

1. Portfolio: A manuscript consisting of the various drafts, including the very first one and especially the final, finished draft of 4 essays of about 1000 words each that you will have worked on during the semester. The different drafts will enable me to evaluate the progress you have made for each essay. We will discuss all of these in a workshop format in class, and the final draft will be due 1 week after it has been workshoped. Final manuscript of 4 essays due April 28. (60%)

2. Journals. This will be a log of your responses to the readings you will be doing throughout the semester from the course texts. To be a writer, you must be a reader. In order to know what you think and feel, you must know what and how others think and feel—and how they express those ideas and emotions. Writers do not live in isolation. They are always learning from each other. “We discover who we and what we have to say through life and dialogue with others.” [EALN 5] Therefore, you must read, and think about what you read. At the top of each entry you must write the work’s title, writer’s name, book’s name, and page#. For each essay, you will first write your initial thoughts/reactions/feelings and then reflect more fully on various elements of the essay, such as details, character, dialogue, point of view, tone, scene, metaphor. By looking at the readings more closely, at the parts that appealed or did not appeal to you, you will learn how to craft better your own writing. In this journal, you are studying other writers’ words to understand better what makes an essay work well. By being a more careful reader of essays, you will become a better writer of essays, and will also be able to edit your writing with a more objective eye. The journal will be collected 3 times during the semester, and a final grade will be given at the end. (25%) 

3. Participation: The main focus of this class is your writing. We will spend the semester discussing and critiquing your essays in a workshop format. Therefore, your response to one another’s essays is a crucial part of class. As each other’s audience, you must provide feedback for the essays presented in class. You will also need to provide copies for the class of each essay you will workshop. (15%)

III. COURSE PURPOSE: We will begin the class by examining essays written by published modern and contemporary writers in order to learn how to discuss essays and to develop a sense of what makes them good according to contemporary standards, as well as personal taste. Then we will turn our attention to essays written by you and examine them in the same way. The purpose of the class is to help you become a better writer of creative non-fiction by reading the works of
Course Calendar:

Jan.  
9 Introduction
16 King’s Birthday—No Class
20 workshop

Feb.  
1 workshop
3 workshop

6 workshop
8 workshop

JOURNALS DUE (4 essays)

13 workshop
15 workshop
17 Lincoln’s Birthday—No Class
20 workshop
22 workshop
24 workshop

Mar.  
1 workshop
3 workshop

6 workshop
{TIS} p.77-87, 359-362, 363-68
10 workshop

13 SPRING BREAK
15 SPRING BREAK
17 SPRING BREAK

20 workshop; JOURNALS DUE (4 essays)
22 workshop
24 workshop

27 workshop
29 workshop
31 workshop

Apr.  
3 workshop
5 workshop
10 workshop
12 workshop
14 workshop
17 workshop
19 workshop
21 workshop; JOURNALS DUE (4 essays)

24 workshop
26 workshop
28 workshop; PORTFOLIOS DUE