

NorthWest Arkansas Community College  
Division of Communication and Arts

Course Number and Title

ENGL 2523 Craft of Non-Fiction

Catalog Description

This course will be designed to continue reinforcing the fundamental techniques of narrative nonfiction. Students will experiment with writing in different sub-genres of narrative nonfiction, building on skills acquired in previous imaginative writing classes. Class will examine current and classic works of nonfiction from various sub-genres, including the personal essay, literary journalism, memoir, and flash nonfiction. Students will encounter and discuss issues of the genre such as truth, accuracy, and the autobiographical pact. In a workshop setting, students will examine and discuss the works they produce over the course of the semester.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites: English 2023 and English 2033 with a grade “C” or better, or consent of instructor.

Credit hours/Contact hours/Load hours

Three

Target Audience/Transferability

This class is open to those interested in learning more about how to compose nonfiction and who are pursuing an Associate of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will

- Write original essays using class discussions of genre and various works to help craft (and to experiment with) essays
- Read and analyze essays and full length works of nonfiction
- Acquire an understanding of the development of the genre of creative nonfiction
- Understand how creative or narrative nonfiction is different from other kinds of nonfiction writing

Topics

Narrative structure

Scene

Voice

Point of View

Memoir

Personal Essay

Subgenres of essay  
Literary Journalism  
Truth / Accuracy / Ethics  
Revision / Workshop environment

Forms of Assessment

Weekly reading journal  
Critical review of a full-length nonfiction work of the student's choice  
Final portfolio, featuring revised original essays and critical reflection