

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
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The quarter used (XX20XX)

Course: ENG 300 Introduction to Non-Fictional Prose

Credit hours: 4 quarter hours

Method of Delivery: eLearning

Course Description: Reading and analysis of non-fictional prose in a variety of forms and from a variety of periods, including approaches to determining literary meaning, form, and value.

Prerequisite: ENG117 Advance Composition

Text(s) & Manual(s): "Contemporary Creative Nonfiction: I & Eye"

ISBN: ISBN-10: 0321198174 • ISBN-13: 9780321198174

Author(s): B Minh Nguyen and Porter Shreve

Publisher: Pearson Longman

Additional Texts: The following short essays are in the course weekly folder. They are not in the textbook.

Charles Lamb "The Superannuated Man"

Francis Bacon "Of Friendship"

GK Chesterton "On Running After One's Hat"

John Erskine "The Moral Obligation to be Intelligent"

Jonathan Swift "Art of Political Lying"

Robert Benchley "My Face"

Samuel Johnson "On Bashfulness"

Materials needed for this course:

Additional Supplies: None

Hardware/Software and Equipment: Computer and Internet access. IE7 and Microsoft Word 7 preferable. Computer with Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and audio capability.

Topics:

1. Discussion and analysis of non-fictional prose in a variety of forms from a variety of literary periods,
2. Discussion of approaches to determining literary meaning, form and value.
2. What is Non-Fictional Prose?
3. What are the genres of Non-Fictional Prose?
4. Sources of Non-Fictional Prose.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand and write in non-fictional prose genres
2. Build upon critical analysis skills through assigned readings
3. Build upon documentation skills
4. Acquire a greater appreciation of the creative nonfiction literary art form
5. Build upon the human experience by creation of student produced creative nonfiction essays

Midstate Grading scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation. (See the Midstate College catalog and/or Student Handbook for additional information.)

In courses containing writing assignments, the college promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Instructor Information:

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Participation Requirements: Students are required to participate in each week's discussion and submit a summary of assigned readings to obtain credit for class participation.

Policies and Procedures: Any late work will receive an automatic 10 percent reduction in grade per week.

Methods of evaluating student performance: Evaluation of student performance is obtained through discussions, summaries, quizzes and essays. A non-graded pre-test and post-test will be given.

Examination Information: The course has one final comprehensive exam and weekly quizzes.

Instructor's Grading Scale:

Quizzes:	100 points	10% of grade
Weekly Discussion:	150 points	15% of grade
Weekly Summary:	150 points	15% of grade
Short Story first draft:	25 points	5% of grade
Short Story final draft:	25 points	5% of grade
Short Essays:	200 points	40% of grade
Final Exam:	100 points	10% of grade

Comments on the grading scale:

1. Quizzes will be multiple choice, five questions per quiz
2. Short essays will be one to two pages
3. The final exam will consist of questions derived from quizzes, and non-story specific PowerPoints.
4. Personal short story to be no longer than four pages double spaced.
5. Remember to proof all essays and the personal short story. Graded work will be marked down for improper punctuation and grammar. This is college-level work.
6. MLA style formatting will be followed for any essays and research papers.
Any need to make special arrangements must be approved by instructor.

Weekly Discussion & Summary:

It is highly important to maintain discussion with the standard ideal minimum of two posts early in the week. Weekly summaries require proper spelling and grammar. They should also be in your own words and demonstrate critical, and when necessary, logical thinking.

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Topics: The I and the Eye in Contemporary Creative Nonfiction
Introduction to the concept of "Portraits" in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Understand the elements of creative nonfiction

Assignments:

Read Text Introduction pp 1-5

Read Portraits Introduction pp 9-11

Read Tony Earley, "Somehow Form a Family" p 17

Read Francis Bacon, "Of Friendship" Text

Discussion 1: How similar were your personal growth experiences to the author's?

Summary 1: Analyze one this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 1

Pre-Assessment

Week 2

Topics: Conclusion to the concept of "Portraits" in creative nonfiction

Objectives:

Assignments:

Read Beverly Lowry, "Secret Ceremonies of Love and Death" p 48

Read Philip Lopate, "On the Necessity of Turning Oneself into a Character" p 69

Discussion 2: Explain a person you know who is one of your most memorable characters in real life.

Summary 2: Analyze one of this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 2

Essay 1: My Self Portrait: Go off on your own tangent, or mimic the style one of the authors and create your own self-portrait.

Week 3

Topics: Introduction to the concept of "Place" in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Introduction to authors who use place as a creative nonfiction element

Assignments:

Read Place Introduction pp 81-83

Read Naomi Shihab Nye, "Thank You in Arabic" p 108

Discussion 3: Explain how the author's sense of "place" differs from yours.

Summary 3: Analyze this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 3

Week 4

Topics: Conclusion to the concept of "Place" in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Understand the concept of "Place" in creative nonfiction

Assignments:

Read Sarah Vowell, "What He Said There" p 130

Discussion 4:

Summary 4: Analyze this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 4

Essay 2: My Place

Week 5

Topics: Introduction to creativity and the arts and their role in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Gain a greater appreciation of the crucial role of creativity in the arts

Assignments:

Read Creativity and the Arts Introduction p 143

Read Charles Simic, "The Necessity of Poetry" p 166

Discussion 5: Is there a place for "poetry" in your life?

Summary 5: Analyze this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 5:

Week 6

Topics: Conclusion to creativity and the arts and their role in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Gain a greater appreciation of the crucial role of creativity in the arts

Assignments:

Read Leslie Marmon Silko, "Language and Literature from a Pueblo Indian Perspective" p 179

Discussion 6: In what ways does your "language" differ from that of more urban or more rural dwellers?

Summary 6: Analyze this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 6:

Essay 3: Creativity and the Arts

Week 7

Topics: Introduction to nature and science in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Understand how authors use nature and science as topics in creative nonfiction

Assignments:

Read Nature and Science Introduction p 207

Read Gretel Ehrlich, "The Solace of Open Spaces" p 209

Discussion 7: Describe your favorite open space

Summary 7: Analyze this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 7:

Week 8

Topics: Conclusion to nature and science in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Understand how authors use nature and science as topics in creative nonfiction

Assignments:

Read Diane Ackerman, "The Psychopharmacology of Chocolate" p 242

Read Charles Lamb, "The Superannuated Man" Text

Discussion 8: What particular food do you like that you know or feel has "medicinal" properties?

Summary 8: Analyze one of this week's stories using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 8:

Essay 4: Nature and Science

Week 9

Topics: Introduction to the use of the topics of culture and society in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Understand how readers of creative nonfiction acquire a deeper comprehension of culture and society

Assignments:

Creative Nonfiction Essay Rough Draft: Student created essay using one of the "themes" of creative nonfiction. The themes are Portraits, Creativity and the Arts, Culture and Society, Nature and Science.

Read Culture and Society Introduction p 281

Read Margaret Atwood, "The Female Body" p 288

Read Robert Benchley, "My Face" Text

Discussion 9: In what ways does our "glory" the human body through culture and society

Summary 9: Analyze this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 9:

Week 10

Topics: Conclusion to the use of the topics of culture and society in creative nonfiction

Objectives: Understand how readers of creative nonfiction acquire a deeper comprehension of culture and society

Assignments:

Read Lawrence Otis Graham, "Invisible Man" p 314

Read Lee Gutkind, "The Creative Nonfiction Police" p 349

Discussion 10:

Summary 10: Analyze one of this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 10:

Essay 5: Culture and Society

Week 11

Topics: Non-contemporary Creative Nonfiction topics

Objectives: Understand changes in form and topics of creative nonfiction

Assignments:

Creative Nonfiction Essay Final Draft: Student created essay using one of the "topics" of creative nonfiction

Read GK Chesterton, "On Running After One's Hat" Text

Read Samuel Johnson, "On Bashfulness" See Contents Too 11397-8 Text

Discussion 11:

Summary 11: Analyze this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Quiz 11:

Week 12

Topics: Non-contemporary Creative Nonfiction topics

Objectives: Understand changes in form and topics of creative nonfiction

Assignments:

Read John Erskine, "The Moral Obligation to be Intelligent" Text

Read Jonathan Swift, "Art of Political Lying" 13169-8 Text

Discussion 12: What were your top three favorite essays? Why were they your favorites?

Summary 12: Analyze one of this week's story using the Nonfiction Analysis Template

Final Exam