

CREATIVE NONFICTION: THE PERSONAL ESSAY

Spring 2019

EN 4990/6990

T Th 9:30-10:45

Dr. Catherine Pierce

Course Description:

What does it mean to tell our own stories? How do we choose the stories worth telling, and how do we make them compelling? What ethical considerations must we weigh when deciding which stories to tell and how to tell them? In this class, we will study and write a variety of contemporary personal essays of different styles and lengths, including micro, flash, “found-form,” and braided narratives, consider how choices of structure can influence and strengthen a piece’s impact, and will workshop one another’s pieces, always with the aim of helping writers craft the most fully-realized and effective versions of the stories they want to tell. This class is open to both undergraduates and graduate students. Undergraduates must have completed the prerequisite, EN 3303: Creative Writing. **Questions? Email cp341@msstate.edu**

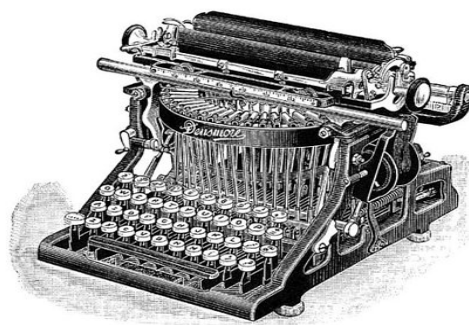
Requirements:

Two very (very!) short essays (micro and flash); two longer essays
A polished final portfolio including revised versions of all essays
Critiques of peers’ work
Responses to assigned readings
Regular participation
Artist’s Statement

Texts:

Heating and Cooling, Beth Ann Fennelly

Individual essays by writers including Hanif Abdurraqib, Alexander Chee, Gary Fincke, Rivka Galchen, Ross Gay, Lesley Jenike, Anna Journey, Kiese Laymon, Kathryn Neurnberger, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, and Megan Stielstra.



write your own story