

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

AP/EN 3180 6.0A (Y)

Literary Nonfiction

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Thursday 8:30-11:30am

Description:

Literary nonfiction (creative nonfiction, literary journalism, new journalism, personal journalism, the “fourth genre”) has become increasingly popular since the 1960s. At its most achieved, the genre melds the factual accuracy of journalism with the dramatic force of fiction, the best of expository prose with the readability of the novel or the short story. The genre raises interesting critical and ethical questions in the tensions between artistic creativity, authorial perspective and the reporter’s objectivity.

In this course we will examine many of the best and most representative examples of the long-form genre (book-length and long essays), primarily American writers, starting with Truman Capote’s seminal “non-fiction novel,” *In Cold Blood*. Other authors include George Orwell, Joan Didion, John Hersey, James Baldwin and James Agee. In the second term, we will look at recent innovations in the genre including graphic nonfictions and online publications. Students will be encouraged to submit one assignment written in keeping with the genre.

For each primary reading several secondary sources will be provided, available electronically via the course wiki. Critics may include: Tom Wolfe, Masu’d Zarvarzadeh, Patrick Sharp, T.V. Reed, Hayden White, John Hellmann, Suzanne Del Gizzo, Barbara Harrison, Amy Malek, Rocío Davis.

Category:

B

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

First Term: 3 short assignments (250-750 words each) 30%. Leading class discussion and essay based on discussion question 20% (1500 words); **Second Term:** proposal for major essay (500 words) 10%; major essay (approx 3000) 20%; final exam 20%.

Reading List:

Truman Capote - *In Cold Blood* (Vintage 1994; ISBN: 978-0679745587)
George Orwell - *The Road to Wigan Pier* (Penguin 2001; ISBN: 9780141185293)
James Agee - *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* (Mariner 2001; ISBN: 978-0618127498)
John Hersey - *Hiroshima* (Vintage 1989; ISBN: 978-0679721031)
Joan Didion - *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (FSG Classics 2008; ISBN: 978-0374531386)
Lillian Ross, *Portrait of Hemingway* (Modern Library) 978-0375754388
James McBride, *The Color of Water* (Penguin) ISBN: 978-1573225786
Marjane Satrapi - *Persepolis* (Pantheon 2007; ISBN: 978-0375714832)
Art Spiegelman - *Maus* (Penguin 2003; 978-0141014081)
Alison Bechdel - *Fun Home* (Wadsworth 2007; ISBN: 978-0618871711)

Open To:

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