

## Summer 2019

**AP/EN 3179 3.0M (S2)**

### ***Art of the Personal Essay***

**Course Director:**

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**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 12:00-3:00pm

**Description:**

This course examines the history, development, and craft of the personal essay. Unlike the formal essay which tends to eschew the first-person perspective and insist upon detachment and objectivity, the personal essay is, well, personal. It is conversational, intimate, and deeply subjective. It is beautifully suited to writing in the age of social media. Indeed, in this course, we will explore the relationship between blogging, and even extended Facebook posts or twitter essays, and the personal essay. In so doing, we will look at the history of this form and follow its trajectory from the work of Montaigne to Manrepeller.

**Category:**

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**Historical Requirement:**

N/A

**Requirements:**

Blog posts (3 posts, 15% each) – 45%  
Term Essay – 25%  
Final exam – 20%  
Participation – 10%

**Reading List:**

Benaway, Gwen, *"Trans Girl in Love"*  
Blum, Hester, *"Moby-Bergin"*  
Didion, Joan, *"On Self-Respect" and "After Life"*  
Fisher, MFK, *"Consider the Oyster"*  
Gay, Roxane, *"Not Here to Make Friends"*  
Helm, Michael, *"Known Stranger"*  
Hetu, Sheila, *"Why Go Out"*  
Louis, Édouard, *"The Pain Never Went Away"*  
Montaigne, *"Of Idleness," "Of Liars," "That Our Affections Carry Themselves Beyond Us"*  
Nahman, Haley, *"I Didn't Realize Growing Up Would Feel Like This"*  
Patchett, Ann, *"The Getaway Car"*  
Roderique, Hadiya, *"Black on Bay Street"*  
Zimmerman, *"Hunger Makes Me"*

**Open To:**

YR 2, 3, 4