Course Title: Writing the Memoir: Standing on the Shoulders of Giants  
Course Code: CNF 09  
Instructor: John W. Evans

Course Summary:  
My goal for your learning in this class is that you walk out of our last session having done the following:  

1. Written about your own life in a meaningful way.  
2. Learned many strategies for writing about personal experience.  
3. Set goals and taken risks regarding your writing.  
4. Read and imitated precedents to vitalize your own thinking, reading, and writing.  
5. Written and received peer feedback on shorter writing sketches and essays.  
6. Planned, written, received peer and instructor feedback on, and revised a finished draft of a memoir chapter or personal essay in the memoir subgenre.  
7. Practiced giving and receiving helpful individual and workshop peer feedback.  

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:  

- No Grade Requested (NGR): No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.  
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC): Course Work must be completed to receive credit.  
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass): Work assigned by the instructor, as follows, will determine a student’s grade:  
  - Class Participation (35%)  
  - Leading A Class Discussion (35%)  
  - Writing Assignments (30%)

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1 (3/31). Course Introductions. History of the Form. The Memoir and Personal Writing. First Assignment Due (available only by enrollment confirmation). Readings TBD.

Week 2 (4/7). The Memoir as a Record of Loss. Short Essay #1 due with copies for all. Readings TBD.


Week 4 (4/21) The Open Week. We will take this week to revisit course concepts to date, talk about the memoir form generally, and do some in-class writing activities to generate new material. There is no work due for this week.


Week 6 (5/5): In-Class Writing Lab & Conferences. In-Class Individual Conferences; Writing Lab for Non-Conferencing Students.

Week 7 (5/12): The Memoir as a Record of Suffering. Readings TBD.

Week 8 (5/19): Final Project Workshops.

Week 9 (5/26): Final Project Workshops.

Week 10 (6/2): Final Project Workshops.

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
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