

**Hot from the First Sentence:
The Short Online Essay**
(Preliminary Syllabus)

Course Code: CNF 74

Quarter: Summer 2021

July 31, August 1, August 7, and August 8 10:00 am – 12:30 pm PST

Instructor: Marisa Handler

Note about Live Attendance: These class sessions will not be recorded. This will be an interactive class and participation is required.

Course Schedule: Saturdays, February 1 and 8, 10:00am-4:00 pm

Course Credit: This is a one-unit class, and credit will be based on attendance (50%) and participation (50%). Participation includes both class discussion and writing exercises.

Please note:

This will be a collaborative environment in which you will share your own experience as well as contribute to the development of your peers' process. Over the course of our two days together, we will explore the possibilities of the short online essay, producing a series of micro-memoirs and sharing selections from our writing with the group.

Class Outline:

The following topics will be covered on each day:

Saturday, July 31

- Introductions: Your chosen delight
- Delights and Obsessions—what we write about, and why
- The benefits of hindsight: Themes and eras in our lives

Sunday, August 1

- Going fishing: freewriting the moment
- The scalding first sentence
- Economy: A world in a paragraph
- Discovery and Surprise

Saturday, August 7

- The Micro-Arc
- Mining the Depths: Emotion
- Seeding Tension: Desire
- Crafting an ending

Sunday, August 8

- Workshop: Sharing our writing