Course Title: The Real World: An Introduction to Creative Nonfiction
Course Code: CNF 48 W
Instructor: Rosalie Moffett

Course Summary:
This is a course for writers of all levels that focuses on the writing process, craft and possibilities for Creative Nonfiction. The course will be composed of two main pieces, reading/writing essays, and workshop. Students will leave with an understanding of the fundamentals of Creative Nonfiction and two polished essays.

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

Grade Options and Requirements:

• No Grade Requested
  o Default mode for the course. Other grading options available upon request.
• Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  o Assignments will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis.
  o Weekly Writing: 10% each (total 40%)
  o Discussion: 10%
  o Peer Feedback: 15%
  o Essay 1: 15%
  o Essay 2: 20%
• A Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass) for the course is assigned based on quality and completion of assignments.

*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
Title: introduction to the genre of memoir/personal essay

Skills: Making use of memory, tackling the blank page

Reading:
“Memory and Imagination” by Patricia Hampl
“First” by Ryan Van Meter

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
“Goodbye to my Twinkie Days” Bich Minh Nguyen
“The Chase” Annie Dillard

Discussion: Introductions

Weekly Writing: Short memoir prompt: connecting past to present, early memories. (500 words)

Week 2
Title: The I, The Eye

Skills: creating the “I” character, crafting and using scene, reflection and exposition

Reading:
“On the Necessity of Turning Oneself into a Character” Philip Lopate
“The Love of My Life” Cheryl Strayed
“Thanksgiving in Mongolia” Ariel Levy
“Feet in Smoke” J.J. Sullivan

Discussion: Locate one passage (1-3 sentences) from the reading that you think most elegantly and skillfully defines the speaker. Optional: Explain what the author does to make this effective.

Weekly Writing: Scene and Summary prompt (500 words)

Week 3
Title: In Relation To: Situating the Self

Skills: Creating the physical world, writing about family and others

Reading:
“Repeat after me” David Sedaris (listen via youtube)
“Pain” by Will Boast
“Men We Reaped” (exerpt) by Jessmyn Ward
“Goodbye to All That” Joan Dideon

Discussion: Choose one of the following to address: What questions and qualms do you have about writing about friends and family? What is to be gained from writing about others?

Weekly Writing: profile exercise (500 words)

Week 4
Title: There’s More Than One Way to Make a Story
Skills: Narrative Structure and Form, Braided, Sectioned, and More.

Reading:
“Son of Mr. Green Jeans” Dinty Moore
“Somehow Form a Family” Tony Earley
“Going to the Movies” Susan Allen Toth
“Journey to the North Pole” Annie Dillard

Discussion: Tips for finding time and staying focused

Weekly Writing: First essay (3000 words) due to be posted by the end of the day, Sunday Feb 7

Week 5
Title: Stepping in and out of the Story,

Skills: intro. to literary journalism, generative research

Reading:
“Amercia’s Immortal Cereal” Rachel Smith
“Relations,” “No Man’s Land” Eula Biss
“Funny Money: When the Law is Lawless” Jenny Pritchet

Discussion/Share: What possibilities for research do you see in your classmates’ essays?

Weekly Writing: Using Fact as Metaphor prompt, or Research-Expansion exercise for an existing piece or your writing.

Week 6
Title: Seeing, and the Art of Re-Seeing

Skills: The Writing Process & Revision, Crafting POV in Literary Journalism

Reading:
DFW “A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again”
“Sheriff Joe” William Finnegan
Optional Reading: Orwell “Why I Write” & “The Making of a Writer: Listening to the Dark” by Eudora Welty

Discussion: TBA

Weekly Writing: Second essay due to be posted by the end of the day, Sunday Feb. 21
**Week 7**
Title: Workshop 1

Skills: Workshop and offering feedback, reading as a reader and a writer

Reading: Classmates’ Essays

Weekly Writing: Workshop Feedback

**Week 8**
Title: Workshop 2

Skills: Workshop and offering feedback, reading as a reader and a writer

Reading: Classmates’ Essays

Weekly Writing: Workshop Feedback

**Week 9**
Title: Workshop 3

Skills: Workshop and offering feedback, reading as a reader and a writer

Reading: Classmates’ Essays

Weekly Writing: Workshop Feedback

**Week 10**
Title: Workshop 4 and Publication Strategies

Skills: How and where to submit your work & continuing writing habits.

Reading: Classmates’ Essays
Discussion: Course Reflection

Weekly Writing: Workshop Feedback