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. Read and imitated a range of precedents to vitalize your own thinking, reading, and writing.  
4. Planned, written, received peer and instructor feedback on, and revised a finished draft of a memoir chapter or personal essay in the memoir subgenre.  
5. Written and received peer feedback on 2-3 shorter writing sketches related to the memoir.  
6. 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: Course Introductions; The 14-Century Historical “Arc” of The Personal Memoir.
First Assignment Due (see course enrollment page).
Readings: Welty, Ozick, Bryson, Updike.

Week 2: The Memoir as a Record of Loss.
Short Essay #1 due with copies for all.
Readings: Augustine, Braestrup, Duncan, Didion.

Week 3: The Memoir as a Record of Experience and Transformation.
Short Essay #2 due with copies for all.
Readings: Brittain, Boland, McCarthy, Dillard, O’Brien, Ashe, Samet, Martin.
Workshop Short Essay #1.

Week 4: The Memoir as a Record of Place.
Sketch due with copies for all.
Readings: Rousseau, Proust, O’Brien, Soyinka.
Workshop Short Essay #2.
Workshop Sketch (small groups).

Week 5: In-Class Writing Lab & Individual Conferences.
In-Class Individual Conferences
Writing Lab for Non-Conferencing Students.

Week 6: The Memoir as a Record of Suffering.
Readings: Beard, Solomon, McCourt, MacDonald.
Memoir Essay/Chapters due from Students #1-3 (with copies for all).

Week 7: Workshops.
Quarter Project Workshops for Students #1-3.
Feedback Letters for Students #1-3.
Quarter Projects due from Students #4-6 (with copies for all).

Week 8: Workshops.
Quarter Project Workshops for Students #4-6.
Feedback Letters for Students #4-6.
Quarter Projects due from Students #7-9 (with copies for all).

Week 9: Workshops.
Quarter Project Workshops for Students #7-9.
Feedback Letters for Students #7-9.
Quarter Projects due from Students #10-12 (with copies for all).

Week 10: Workshops.
Quarter Project Workshops for Students #10-12.
Feedback Letters for Students #10-12.