

Section 001—TR 2:20-3:40—LANG 314

Educator: Raina Joines (she/her)**E-mail: Raina.Joines@unt.edu****Office: LANG 408 E****Office Hours: TR 9:45-10:45 & by appt.****Required Texts**Mark Doty, *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*Sarah Manguso, *300 Arguments***Course Pack**

Baldwin, Birkerts, Biss, Didion, Dillard, Dillon, Dyer, Gay, Glück, Grealy, Levine, Levy, Li, Lopate, Lopez, McPhee, Montaigne, Oyler, Purpura, Saunders, Savarese, Sedaris, Skloot, Strayed, & Wallace

Course Overview

"Writing is decision-making. Nothing more and nothing less [...]. The only surefire solution is to pass reliable judgment on your own work." —Steve Almond

"The difference between a good writer and a so-so writer is the quality of these unwilled intuitions [that occur] during the split second between the reading of a line and the urge to alter it. And this is true even when the good writer and the so-so writer are both you."

—George Saunders

"Reading is the finest teacher of how to write."

—Annie Proulx

"What we respond to in any work of art is the artist's struggle against his or her limitations." —Saul Steinberg

"The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper." —W.B. Yeats

"Emotions move. They are, in a way, events." —Jan Zwicky

"The experience of meaning is the experience of resonant relationship. The deeper and more complex the resonance, the more powerful the experience of meaning." —Jan Zwicky

This course is designed to improve your skill in the art and craft of writing creative nonfiction. Since reading and writing are closely connected, we will do both to enhance our understanding of how to discuss writing in the genre and prepare to write essays, workshop them, and make good decisions about revising our work. We will also discuss some of the tools, habits, and attitudes writers use to inform their creative processes and produce finished pieces.

We will begin with published pieces by accomplished writers and discuss how they create original, memorable, and resonant works. Our reading will help us understand how great essays are created by the skillful use of literary elements, which will be defined and discussed in the class. Students will also write flash nonfiction and personal essays, distribute them to their peers for written and oral comments, revise them for the final project, and write a brief introduction to their work. This labor-intensive process is essential for sharpening a sense of how to make effective, engaging essays that find their subjects, develop their themes, capture a nuanced perception of the world in words, and provide an intense experience of language for the reader.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, all students should be able to

- Identify and define key literary techniques in the personal essay.
- Provide an original close reading of a key passage to illuminate meaning in a text.
- Provide an effective comparative analysis of two essays.
- Demonstrate an acquaintance with some modern and contemporary creative nonfiction writers.
- Demonstrate an ability to draft original nonfiction prose to assignment.
- Display an understanding of the conventions of the academic creative writing workshop.
- Work with their peers to evaluate drafts according to clearly stated criteria.
- Revise their written work to improve the quality and effectiveness of the work.
- Write an effective description of their own writing, writing goals, and aesthetic standards.

Course Structure

This is a face-to-face course with supplemental online instruction. The semester consists of sixteen weeks plus finals week. The major components of the course include reading, in-class discussion, flash and personal essay assignments, creative writing workshop, and a final project of selected revisions. Students must acquire the required texts, bring relevant readings on the day they are assigned, and bring assigned workshop drafts to class. I require print texts (with exceptions for specific accommodations from the ODA). All drafts will be submitted on Canvas and delivered in print form. The course schedule at the end of this document provides and overview of our work for the term.

Minimum Technology Requirements

Minimum technology requirements for students in this course include the following: a computer, reliable internet access, Microsoft Office Suite, and the [Canvas Tech. Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors at UNT, whether at home or abroad. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication, whether online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experience, your reading of the text, or scholarly research. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups, especially if you don’t belong to them.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “yelling.”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret.
- Avoid using “text-talk” in written posts or papers in the course.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

- Proofread and fact-check your sources.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

Attendance

Workshop courses are participatory, collaborative, and discussion based. Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent, so we can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform me if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. It is your responsibility to make sure Canvas attendance is accurate. If you are late, make sure to see me after class to verify your presence. University policies concerning attendance may be found at <http://www.unt.edu/catalog/enrollment.htm>.

Unexcused Absences

- An absence is unexcused unless it is explicitly excused by the University or the instructor. Absences for participation in an official university function, religious holy days, pregnancy or parenting under Title IX, and required military service are eligible to be excused by the University. All other absences are up to the instructor to excuse or not. See policy 06.039 and read this syllabus with care.
- You are allowed three unexcused absences in the course with no penalty. They are granted as leeway for personal emergencies. Please save them for when it is strictly necessary to be absent.
- Three tardies may count as an unexcused absence. Those excessively tardy (more than ten minutes) to one class may be counted absent for the class.
- Those who are sleeping, using their phone in class, have earbuds in, or are late to peer review will be counted absent.
- **Five points will be deducted from your grade for each of your fourth, fifth, and sixth unexcused absences.** Deductions will be taken from your total grade on Canvas at the end of the term.
- **Upon your seventh unexcused absence, your grade for the semester will be an F if you do not withdraw.**

Excused Absences and Make-up Work

- Please arrange any planned absences with me ahead of time to see if they will be excused.
- An absence to be excused by the University must follow UNT policy: "Student absences due to participation in an official university function must be approved in advance by the Dean of Students Office." Within three business days of receipt of the absence notice, the Dean of Students will provide absence documentation to the student for them to present to all instructors. Failure to follow this procedure will result in an unexcused absence.
- University policy asks that students notify their teachers as soon as possible (ideally within the first fifteen days of the start of the term) if they expect to miss class on a religious holy day.
- An absence for an emergency doctor's visit or hospitalization has the potential to be excused by the instructor if you notify me via email, present me with a verifiable doctor's note (with contact information) on your first day back after the absence, and we hold a conference on the absence.
- If the absence is an illness or extenuating circumstance that exceeds 5 consecutive days, the faculty member may request that the student provides documentation through the Dean of Students' office.

Examples include, but are not limited to, temporary disability or injury, extended medical absence or hospitalization, illness of a dependent family member, or the major illness or death of a loved one.

- Contact me in a timely fashion (within five days of your return) to make up course days missed for excused absences. Failure to do this or to hand in make-up work by the deadline will result in point deductions from your total grade, with deductions of up to 5 points per absence.
- Excused absences do not change essay or quiz due dates. Make arrangements accordingly.

Assignment Requirements

- **Late work is not accepted in the course.**
- You must bring a legible printed copy of each longer essay on time to class on the day it is due.
- All longer essays must be given a title and typed on standard-sized paper with 1" margins on all sides. Put only the title on the title line.
- Deliver the text in block format: single-space with a space between paragraphs and a ragged right edge.
- Use black ink, white paper, 12-point Times New Roman or a similar professional font, and a properly functioning printer. Include your name at the top of each page. Do not staple the essay.
- Include the assignment number at the top of the page, as in "Essay #1."
- Do not mark on the essay. Give us a clean copy.
- Longer essays will also be turned into Canvas by class time on the due date.
- Flash essays are due at 12:59 p.m. on Canvas on Sunday nights; see the schedule for due dates.
- Keep copies of everything you turn in throughout the semester. Save your work as you go.
- **Keep returned drafts of your essays (those with my comments);** you will hand them in again with your revision for the final project. Revisions without drafts cannot receive full points.

Grading & Assignments:

Flash Assignments	25%
Essay #1 Draft	15%
Essay #2 Draft	20 %
Participation	20%
Final Project	20%

Final Grades

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Flash Assignments

You will hand in five flash nonfiction pieces for the semester; these will be between 500-750 words each. A specific assignment will be given out for each one. Each will be typed in block format and submitted to Canvas.

Essay Assignments

You will write two essays for the class. The first will be a personal essay of 1,000-2,500 words; the second will be an essay of 2,500-4,000 words. These will be workshopped in the course. You may be asked to turn in copies for the class. Late work will not be accepted. Work not handed in on time cannot be revised for points in the final project.

Participation

Workshop courses require the participation of all class members. Factors affecting your participation grade include your contributions to class discussions and in-class activities, your level of preparedness for class

(attentiveness to reading, useful questions, written and oral comments on workshop packets, materials in hand, etc.), your helpfulness as a peer editor, the quality of your presentations, and your attendance and engagement in class and at program activities. To earn a superior participation grade, your contributions to class should be regular, well-informed, on topic, and insightful. Contributions that lead the class off topic or do not address course texts will not be rewarded. If you never speak in class, never speak on subjects relevant to the course, or never prepare comments for workshop poems, you will receive a failing participation grade. If participation wanes, I will give quizzes, assign written discussion questions for the class, or require that you turn in your comments on workshop packets. Your participation grade will be determined at the end of the semester, but you are free to schedule a conference at any time to find out where you stand.

Final Project

The final project will consist of one of the essay drafts you turned in during the class (the one with my comments), one piece of flash, and a thoughtful revision for each. You will also include a short critical preface in which you discuss and analyze your work in terms of its style, influences, and approach.

Questions about Grades or Attendance

If you have questions about assignments, grades, or absences, you should discuss those with me during office hours, making sure to bring any papers in question. I will not discuss paper grades until 24 hours have passed after the grade has been assigned. Outstanding problems concerning attendance, participation, or grades must be resolved by Tuesday of Week 14.

Other Course Policies

Required Materials

It is your responsibility to bring the texts under discussion to class each day and to do the required reading. This includes the course pack, handouts, and the workshop packet. I reserve the right to count you absent for class meetings if you repeatedly fail to bring required reading or writing materials to class.

Classroom Etiquette

- Please organize your seating as requested.
- Those disrupting class will be asked to leave. Actions considered misconduct by the University may be found in the UNT Student Code of Conduct. These include disruptions of teaching or research, acts of incivility, violence, harassment, repeatedly talking out of turn or monopolizing class discussion, and unauthorized use of electronic devices.
- Silence all phones, music players, and laptops, etc. Only those accessing the readings should have laptops open in class. Remove ear buds for the duration of the class. If electronic devices repeatedly distract you or disturb the class, you will be asked to leave and counted absent. Those texting or taking calls during class will be asked to leave and counted absent.
- Working on outside material during class will result in an unexcused absence for the day.

Plagiarism & Cheating

- Plagiarism is defined as the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement.
- All assignments should be original work written by you for this particular class.
- UNT defines the use of materials prepared by another person, agency, or mechanism as plagiarism.
- Protect yourself: do not lend or send your writing to other students.

- Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment will result in a zero on the assignment, an Academic Integrity Violation report, and may lead to an F in the course and/or disciplinary procedures (such as loss of scholarships or expulsion) established by the Administrative Office.

On Generative AI: It is Forbidden in this Course

You are expected to be the sole author of your work for the course. The use of machine learning algorithms, commonly known as “Artificial Intelligence,” to produce and/or style writing is not authorized in this course. In other words, the use of generative “AI” writing tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, GrammarlyGO, GPT-3, GPT-4, BERT, or others, including all those that rewrite your phrases) is prohibited in this class.

Assignments for the course have been designed to help you develop as a writer without the use of these technologies. You should generate ideas, read, revise, and write on your own and/or in consultation with peers, me, or Writing Center tutors, and *you should not use AI at any stage of your writing process*. Any use of AI technologies in your work will be considered a [violation of UNT's academic integrity policy](#) and addressed accordingly. Avoid A.I.-generated answers to your search queries as you study or research. All written work will be submitted through Turnitin and screened for unauthorized assistance. Exception: I authorize the use of spellchecker.

Additional Course Requirements & Information

Schedule Changes—The reading and assignment schedule will be changed if necessary to meet the goals of the course or adjust to circumstances beyond my control. I will send an announcement upon any changes and update the relevant documents.

Interpreting the Reading Schedule—Readings are due on the day they are listed. You should be finished with each day’s reading by the time you come to class.

Course Content Notices & Expectations for a Community of Care—Workshop courses, especially those in creative nonfiction, create a space for learning, experimenting, introspection, exploring the self and one’s thinking, and being vulnerable. Thus, we must be mindful of best practices when it comes to shaping, presenting, and discussing our writing. As my colleague Dr. Grey puts it, “We are each other’s audience and will meet the work with thoughtful and empathetically framed feedback. We are here to witness each other’s stories, thought processes” and emotional valences. We have a “responsibility to each other during our time together to be a positive presence in the room.” Please take this responsibility seriously.

I do not censor writing topics. Note that CNF ranges expansively though human experience, thought and feeling, and some of the writing in our readings and workshop pieces may be challenging or disturbing. However, please be mindful that what you bring in to discuss is appropriate for discussion in an educational setting. Difficult subjects and themes, explicit language, the spectrum of human emotion and experience are all acceptable; offensive slurs are not. Hate speech—in writing or discussion—will not be tolerated in the classroom. Additionally, please protect yourself by only presenting material that you are prepared to hear us discuss. All students should provide advance notice to the class if an essay contains material related to trauma such as violence, sexual abuse, exploitation, or self-harm. Students who cannot engage with a particular subject may let me know privately so we can make arrangements to meet the learning outcomes of the course.

Workshop will be conducted with kindness, respect, privacy, and a genuine desire to make your peers' work better in the sense that the writing is helped to effectively achieve its goals. Class discussions that do not adhere to these standards are not acceptable and may be reported.

Academic Freedom: UNT has a robust policy regarding academic freedom and academic responsibility. Crucially, this policy encompasses not only the rights of faculty members but also the rights “of the student to freedom in learning.” As a student in this classroom, therefore, you have the right to encounter and debate new ideas, diverse forms of knowledge, and unfamiliar or contrary points of view. According to UNT policy, “it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.” At the same time, to encourage the free exchange of ideas, and to ensure that your right to learn is protected, the tone for such discussion must always be civil and respectful; hateful or discriminatory speech will not be tolerated. For more information, please consult the full UNT policy at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-035>.

E-mail—If Canvas functionality temporarily fails, the registrar's course enrollment list will be used to communicate with you outside of class. It is your responsibility to make sure your UNT e-mail is up and running and to check your e-mail regularly for schedule changes, course announcements, or supplementary materials for the class. When you ask questions about the course or send relevant information over e-mail, courtesy and care are recommended. Include your name on all e-mail messages.

Course Webpage—You should regularly check Canvas where important announcements, course documents, quizzes, schedule changes, reading notes, and discussion questions may be posted.

Writing Center and Writing Help—If you need additional help with grammar, punctuation, or any other element of composition, the UNT Writing Center may be of assistance. You may wish to schedule a conference with the Writing Center as part of your writing process. The tutors there can answer specific questions about the effectiveness of your essays and may help you polish your writing. I am happy to meet with you during office hours to assist with questions on papers or to help with brainstorming, organizing, or finalizing your material. Note that I do not read drafts on computers when meeting in person. Please bring a typed hardcopy.

Audio/Video Recording: Although UNT is a publicly supported institution, our classroom is not a public space. Therefore, in order to protect the intellectual property and privacy rights of both faculty and students, video and audio recordings are prohibited during class. The exception is for students who have been granted explicit approval as an ODA accommodation; students may not post or otherwise share recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action. For more information, please consult the full UNT policy at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/faculty/faculty-guide/accommodations-explained/Audio-Recording-Faculty.html>

Online Instruction in the Event of an Emergency

In the event of an emergency that 1) prevents an in-class meeting but 2) permits the class to continue online, students would need access to a computer with a camera and speakers to participate in online portions of the class and/or to engage in synchronous online interaction with the instructor. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>. If an emergency requires additional online instruction, the relative weight of components in the total grade may be shifted to properly reward online discussion and group work.

Carrying of Handguns by License Holders—Students must read UNT’s policy on concealed handguns on campus. Note that 1) licensed persons may legally carry handguns on campus, and 2) the license holder may not carry a “partially or wholly visible handgun” while on campus property.

“Active Shooter” Situations. All students should be aware of UNT’s guidelines for responding to “active shooter situations” (see <http://emergency.unt.edu/get-prepared/Active-Shooter>).

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for

one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information: Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu. [Please look for the SPOT email in the second half of the ten-week session.]

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Class Recordings & Student Likenesses

If optional live sessions in this course are held, they may be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know.

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc. Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab) (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

* * * *

“Like a poem, a genuine essay is made out of language and character and mood and temperament and pluck and chance.” —Cynthia Ozick

“In reading an essay, I want to feel that I’m communing with a real person, and a person who cares about what [they are] writing about [...]. For me, the ideal essay is not an assignment, to be dispatched efficiently and intelligently, but an exploration, a questioning, an introspection. I want to see a piece of the essayist. I want to see a mind at work, imagining, spinning, struggling to understand. If the essayist has all the answers, then [they aren’t] struggling to grasp, and I won’t either. When you care about something, you continually grapple with it, because it is alive in you. It thrashes and moves, like all living things.

When I’m reading a good essay, I feel that I’m going on a journey. The essayist is searching for something and taking me along. That something could be a particular idea, an unraveling of identity, a meaning in the wallow of observations and facts. The facts are important but are never enough. An essay, for me, must go past the facts, an essay must travel and move. The facts of personal history provide anchor, but the essayist then swings in a wide arc on his anchor line, testing and pulling hard.” —Alan Lightman

Course Schedule

All reading is in the course pack unless otherwise indicated.

On Crafting Creative Nonfiction

Week 1 Aug. 17-21

T Introduction, Syllabus, & Klinkenborg
R Saunders, Dillon (28-38), Gay, & Levine

Week 2 Aug. 24-28

U Flash #1 Due at 11:59 p.m on Canvas
T McPhee

Self-Fashioning

R Glück, Li, Savarese, & Lopate

Week 3 Aug. 31- Sept. 4

T Oyler

Family, Community, & Belonging

R Sedaris & Baldwin

Week 4 Sept. 7-11

U Flash #2 Due On Canvas
T Levy & Strayed

This Mortal Coil: Minding the Body

R Skloot, Biss, & Grealley

Portraits of People & Place

Week 5 Sept. 14-18

T Essay #1 Due; Didion, Dyer, & Birkerts

The Art of the Aphorism

R Manguso, *300 Arguments*

Week 6 Sept. 21-25

T Workshop
R Workshop

Week 7 Sept. 28-Oct. 2

U Flash #3 Due On Canvas
T Workshop
R Workshop

ENGL 3160.001

Week 8 Oct. 5-9

T Workshop
R Workshop

Encounters with Art & Nature: On Looking, Perception, & The Transformation of the Self

Week 9 Oct. 12-16

U Flash #4 Due On Canvas
T Doty, *Still Life with Oysters & Lemon*: 1-36a
R Doty, *Still Life with Oysters & Lemon*: 36b-70

Week 10 Oct. 19-23

T Essay #2 Due; Montaigne & Purpura
R Dillard & Dillon (24-27)

Week 11 Oct. 26-30

T Workshop
R Workshop

Week 12 Nov. 2-6

U Flash #5 Due On Canvas
T Workshop
R Workshop

Week 13 Nov. 9-13

T Workshop
R Workshop

The World into Words: Attending to the Divine Details

Week 14 Nov. 16-20

T Lopez & Wallace
R TBA

Week 15 Nov. 23-27

Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 16 Nov. 30- Dec. 4

T TBA
R TBA

Final Examination Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 3:30-5:30