

# CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

**A: Division: INSTRUCTIONAL**
**Date:**
**September 21, 1999**
**B: Department/ PROGRAM AREA: LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND PERFORMING ARTS  
CREATIVE WRITING**
**New Course**
☐
**Revision**
☒
**If Revision, Section(s) Revised: Q**
**Date Last Revised:**
**November 1997**
**C: CRWR 202**
**D:**
**Personal Narrative**
**E:**
**3**
**Subject & Course No.**
**Descriptive Title**
**Semester Credits**
**F: Calendar Description:**

This course concentrates on writing based on personal experience. Students develop an awareness of both self and the creative process by shaping biographical material into readable narratives. Instruction in a workshop format will focus on techniques needed to produce such creative forms as creative non-fiction, fiction, and poetry.

**G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings**
**Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:**
**Seminar**
**Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)**
**4**
**Number of Weeks per Semester:**
**14**
**H: Course Prerequisites:**
**None**
**I: Course Corequisites:**
**None**
**J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:**
**None**
**K: Maximum Class Size:**
**20**
**L: PLEASE INDICATE:**
☐
**Non-Credit**
☐
**College Credit Non-Transfer**
☒
**College Credit Transfer:**
**Requested**
☐
**Granted**
☒
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**M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

**General Objectives:**

**Students will**

1. discover narratives in their own biographies and in the lives of their families and communities;
2. learn how to transform these narratives into non-fiction, fiction, and poetry;
3. present these forms to the workshop for discussion; and
4. develop skills in selection and revision.

**Specific Objectives:**

**Pre-writing**

1. Students will learn to recognize the value of their own life experiences and observations as a basis for writing.
2. Students will learn to recognize anecdotes, tall tales, gossip, yarns, myths and other forms of narratives in their own lives and in their families and communities.
3. Students will learn to identify narratives in their own lives and in their families and communities that are particularly significant in their own biographies.

**Writing**

1. Students will learn to write first-person non-fiction narratives that are appropriately detailed.
2. Students will learn to transform first-person narratives into short fiction through necessary developments in point of view, structure, plot and characterization.
3. Students will learn to metamorphose first-person narratives into poems through the use of compression and through the development of imagery.

**Revision:**

1. Students will recognize the value of revision as an essential part of the process of articulating and refining written thought and feeling.
2. Students will learn to consider critical suggestions from peers and instructor, and incorporate these revisions where suitable.
3. Students will learn to critique their own narratives and their short fictions and poems.
4. Students will learn to recognize and use in their critiques technical terms related to the craft of writing.

**N: Course Content**

1. Students' manuscripts.
2. Discussion and analysis of selections from textbook(s).

**O: Methods of Instruction**

Classes will be conducted in the workshop format. The following may be combined with the workshop:

- lecture and discussions
- in-class and take-home exercises
- small group work
- interviews
- assigned reading

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students**

The texts could include any of the following;

Wolff, Tobias. This Boy's Life, Harper & Row Perennial Library, 1990.

Event (Creative Non-fiction issue).

Pearls (current issue).

**Q: Means of Assessment**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of at least five assignments. These may include personal narrative (based on student's biography), personal narrative (based on experiences of student's family or community member), one piece of short fiction, and/or poetry, all of which count for a minimum of 60% of the grade. Other evaluations may include class participation, in-class writing assignments, and self-evaluation of submitted material.

Students are required to attend 80% of the workshops. A student missing more than 20% of the workshops without receiving prior permission from the instructor will receive 0 in Class Participation. Leaving after the break is considered half an absence.

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

Course Designer(s)

Education Council/Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean/Director

Registrar