

Writing 240: Intro to Creative Nonfiction

CRN 21393, Fall 2020

Instructor: **Dionisia Morales**

Class Hours: **Tues 10:00 - 11:20 a.m.**

live via Zoom <https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/99260949798>

Thurs. I will be in the Zoom classroom for drop-in questions and to help with completing craft assignments.

Email: moraled@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours: Wed and Thurs. 3:00-4:00 a.m. & by appt.

<https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/985381783>

***No required textbook; all course materials posted on Moodle**

WR240 Introduction to Creative Nonfiction explores ways that writers use creative writing techniques (plot, characterization, setting, metaphor, point of view, voice, etc.) in nonfiction (truthful) writing, such as essays, memoirs, and literary journalism. WR 240 also emphasizes the creative process: personal reflective writing, creative drafting strategies, craft exercises, peer feedback, and revision. We will read and discuss various examples of creative nonfiction, and we will write our own examples drawing on our own experiences.

Note: This class may be repeated for up to six credits.

Recommended Prerequisite: WR 121 (English Composition)

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) Demonstrate the skills of creative nonfiction writing (dialogue, setting, character, theme, message, reflection, research, etc.) through learning and practicing the craft of creative nonfiction writing in a workshop environment; 2) write and speak effectively about the craft of creative nonfiction writing; 3) interpret creative nonfiction through critical evaluation; 4) write creative nonfiction that addresses elements of the human condition; and 5) participate in activities that encourage personal awareness, growth, and/or creativity through creative nonfiction writing.

COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

Attendance: Consistent attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Class participation is an integral part of the structure of this class; therefore, your attendance and involvement are necessary.

Lateness: Lateness is distracting. Please make every effort to arrive on time. With that said, life happens, and sometimes we are running late. If you join class late, please make sure your microphone is muted, settle into what we are discussing, and then engage with the rest of the class.

Participation & Preparation: Class participation is an important part of this course. I expect students to have completed their readings and any necessary assignments prior to class, and to be prepared to participate in discussions about the work. Class participation counts for 10% of the final grade.

Late Assignments: Assignments are due on the date specified in the class calendar. Late work will not be accepted. Students who foresee a problem turning in an assignment on time should contact me immediately.

Revision: Revision is a necessary aspect of writing. No writer ever writes perfect first drafts. I will allow an opportunity to resubmit one assignment demonstrating significant revisions. Please note, however, that the assignment can only be revised and resubmitted if the original grade was a C or lower.

Plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be your own **and be written exclusively for this course**. Do not submit work that you have used for other courses. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented.

Class Cancellation: If for any reason I need to cancel class, I will notify you via email.

Communication: Please check your LBCC email at least once daily. Your LBCC address is the one I will use to send messages about the class. The best way to reach me is through my email (moraled@linnbenton.edu). I check my email every day and reply to student emails first. I try to reply within 24 hours on weekdays, but a response may take longer on the weekends. Please include WR 240 in your subject line so I can prioritize getting back to you.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LBCC Writing Center: The LBCC Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. Drop in during regular hours or make an appointment. In addition to your draft, please bring your assignment. You may also submit your writing online at lbcc.writingcenteronline.net where you will receive a response within 1-2 business days. For more information, visit the [Writing Center](#) online.

CFAR: LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Rights (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the [CFAR website](#) for steps on how to apply for services. Online course accommodations may be different than those for on-campus courses, so it is important that you make contact with CFAR as soon as possible.

Roadrunner Resource Center: Get connected to resources that can help with: childcare, food, emergency housing, healthcare, taxes, utilities, textbooks and school supplies, transportation, and more. Contact Student Resource Navigator Amanda Stanley at stanlea@linnbenton.edu, at (541) 917-4877 or visit the [RRC website](#). Please also feel free to talk about these issues with me if you are comfortable doing so.

LBCC Non-Discrimination Policy: Everyone is welcome at LBCC, regardless of whether they are black, white, Latino, native, gay, straight, Christian, Muslim, Jewish, male, female, transgender, married, disabled, a veteran, a non-English speaker, an immigrant, or any number of other categories not listed here. What is more, LBCC sees our differences as a source of strength and an important part of education.

WR240 TERM ASSIGNMENTS

Reader response & class participation -- 10%

One of the best ways to learn creative nonfiction craft is by reading and analyzing other creative nonfiction authors. What you think about the craft of writing helps the rest of us understand what we've read and what we want to work on, and vice versa. In other words, your active participation in discussions is not just good for you, it's great for all of us! Participation in this class is based on completing the reading and reader responses prior to class, participating in breakout sessions, joining in on class activities, and giving meaningful feedback on your classmates' craft exercises.

Craft exercises (5) -- 10%

Craft exercises are a chance to practice specific techniques to strengthen your writing. Craft exercises will be completed in Moodle using discussion boards, so we can all learn from each other. Part of your participation grade will be giving feedback to classmates on their craft exercises.

Short works (3) -- 20%

These "micro essays" (500-750 words) ask you to address a specific topic and concisely tell a story/communicate an idea or image in a compelling way in a small amount of space. Often writing less in a meaningful way is more difficult than writing more.

Essays (2) -- 50%

The only criteria for your two major essays is that they be creative nonfiction (a truthful narrative) and that they fit the assigned page count. You may choose to expand upon one of your short works and turn it into an essay, or you may choose to do something entirely different. I just ask that you keep it creative, keep it nonfiction, and keep it within the word counts. Also, please double-space, carefully proofread, and include a title. Word count: between 1,200 and 1,700 words (between roughly 5 and 7 double-spaced pages)

Pre-essay Conferences (2) -- 5%

I would like to meet with you for a brief conference before you hand in your essays. These conversations will be to help you discuss any questions or rough spots you are working on as you plan or write your essay. It also is a time to say what you are excited to write about!

Reflective Essay -- 5%

At the end of the term, you will write a brief summary of your work this term. Where were you as a writer when the term started versus where you are at the end? In what areas were you successful this term? In what areas did you struggle? What areas will you continue to work on? What do you like about your writing this term? *NOTE: This is not a reflection of the course or a critique of my teaching (toward the end of the term you will have an opportunity to share your critiques of the class and/or my teaching in a different venue).