

University of Oklahoma
Honors Colloquium
HON 3993.004
Spring 2004

Creative Nonfiction

Honors College 182
Wednesday 1:30-4:10

Prof. James Treat
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Course Description

An interdisciplinary seminar devoted to reading and writing creative nonfiction, an emerging genre encompassing memoir, personal essay, literary journalism, narrative history, cultural criticism, nature writing, travelogue, and other belletristic forms. This seminar is part literature course, part writing workshop: students read and discuss a variety of exemplary texts and also write and critique their own ventures into creative nonfiction. Class discussions are supplemented by guest speakers, audiovisual presentations, and campus events. Students have the opportunity to explore a wide range of approaches to and interpretations of creative nonfiction; to experience the challenges and satisfactions of working in this emerging literary genre; and to develop their own critical skills for use in academic, professional, and personal settings.

Required Texts

These books can be purchased at the OU Bookstore and are also available at the reserve desk in Bizzell Memorial Library:

Robert L. Root, Jr., and Michael Steinberg (eds.), *The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers of/on Creative Nonfiction*, 2nd ed. (New York, NY: Longman Publishers, 2002).

N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1969).

N. Scott Momaday, *The Names: A Memoir* (New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1976).

N. Scott Momaday, *The Man Made of Words: Essays, Stories, Passages* (New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1997).

Other course information and materials, including all assignment handouts, are available on-line through Blackboard:

<http://ou.blackboard.com/>

Please note that all e-mail communication related to this course is routed through Blackboard, which uses OU e-mail addresses.

Class Schedule

January 14	Course Introductions
January 21	Reading Response and Writing Report due
January 28	Reading Response and Writing Report due
February 4	Reading Response and Writing Report due
February 11	Reading Response and Writing Report due
February 18	Reading Response and Writing Report due
February 25	Reading Response and Writing Report due
March 3	Reading Response and Writing Report due
March 10	Reading Response and Writing Report due
March 17	NO CLASS
March 24	Reading Response and Writing Report due
March 31	Reading Response and Writing Report due
April 7	Reading Response and Writing Report due
April 14	Reading Response and Writing Report due
April 21	Reading Response and Writing Report due
April 28	Course Conclusions
May 5	Writing Portfolio due

Grading Criteria

Each assignment is evaluated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis according to the following schedule:

15 Class Meetings @ 13 points	195 points
13 Reading Responses @ 15 points	195 points
13 Writing Reports @ 15 points	195 points
Writing Portfolio	195 points

Course grades are assigned according to a point system:

700-780 points	=	A
620-699 points	=	B
540-619 points	=	C
460-539 points	=	D