

Writing Popular Nonfiction

Fulfills Upper Division Communication/Writing (CW)



Nonfiction—including memoir, personal essay, and biography—is incredibly popular among readers today. Nonfiction books dominate the NYT best-seller lists, have millions of fans, and a number have even been made into blockbuster movies. But how do writers go about crafting these well-liked stories? How do authors transform family history and personal experience into thrilling tales? And how are bizarre subjects, weird encounters, and modern mysteries spun into books we're all dying to read?



Dog-eared copies of Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, and Thoreau's *Walden* have cluttered the shelves of bookish types for years. But what do we make of more recent trends—Cheryl Strayed's *Wild* or David Sedaris' *Naked*, Mary Roach's *Stiff*?

WRTG 4200 will pay special attention to recent popular works of nonfiction, exploring why audiences love them, how they're written, and how they fit into the history of the genre. Students will also craft their own nonfiction works and learn how to polish their voice, their writing style, and stories.

Spring 2020

TuTh

12:25pm – 1:45pm

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