

# WR 459 Winter 2015

Saturday, January 10, 2015

## WR 459 Syllabus\_Winter 2015

### WR 459 – 003: Memoir Writing

Tuesdays 17:30 - 21:10 @ Neuberger 362

Class Blog: WR459-Winter2015.blogspot.com

Instructor: Cooper Lee Bombardier (cbomb2@pdx.edu)

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 12:00-1:45 or by appointment

**Office:** NH 376

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Delving into the most vibrant and contentious area of creative nonfiction, Writing the Memoir is a weekly writing workshop focused on the development and revision of new work, as well as exploring major authors and issues in modern memoir.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

*Autobiography of a Face* by Lucy Grealy (1994)

*The Situation and The Story* by Vivian Gornick (2002)

*Truth & Beauty: A Friendship* by Ann Patchett (2004)

*The Autobiographer's Handbook* by Jennifer Traig (2008)

*Down and Out in Paris and London* by George Orwell (1972 rpt. of 1933)

*Close to the Knives: A Memoir of Disintegration* by David Wojnarowicz (1991)

*The Chronology of Water: A Memoir* by Lidia Yuknavitch (2011)

Various reading handouts throughout term, which I will provide in class as needed.

### REQUIREMENTS

- **Reading.** See the attached course schedule.
- **Blogging.** Before each class you should consult our blog for announcements and links; it's password-protected and can only be viewed by those in the class.
- **Written assignments.** In the weeks leading up to your draft, you'll be prepare brief (500w) written assignments and bring a hard copy to class; these are exercises designed to create raw material for your draft papers.
- **Workshop Draft of one paper.** Papers must be double spaced, single sided, reasonable font (Times pt. 12) and must include page numbers as well as **your name**. Basic MLA formatting works well. Papers should be a minimum of 5 pages – 10 pages max. Longer does not necessarily equal better.
- **Workshops.** Draft papers will be workshopped, so make sure to bring a sufficient number of copies for the entire class on due dates (you will present the class with hard copies, collated and stapled, in class the week before your workshop).
- **Individual conferences.** Class will be canceled on this day in order to individually discuss your respective paper.
- **Final paper.** Using the feedback from my comments, the conference, and your in-class workshop, at the end of the quarter you'll revise your drafts into a polished 5-10 final paper. (Combining and revising material from all course writing is acceptable.)

### GRADING

Your grade is based entirely on the final paper due at the end of the course. Because the article will evolve from your previous work, this course first requires the satisfactory completion of the above Requirements. Skipping steps will result in a failing grade.

### Blog Archive

▼ 2015 (72)

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[According to Lucy Grealy's Sister](#)

[What I've Written So Far](#)

[State of the Story x first review by Cooper](#)

[Deb's memoir topic](#)

[Betty's Memoir Idea](#)

[Writing Memoir tips](#)

[memoir topic](#)

[WR 459 Week Three Writing Assignments](#)

[Write to Publish Conference at PSU](#)

[Old Object exercise](#)

[Notes on "Autobiography of a face](#)

[Notes on "The Situation and The Story"](#)

[Grealy & Traig on Families and Memoirs](#)

[Workshop Schedule](#)

[Individual Conference Schedule Tuesday 1/27 in NH ...](#)

[Memoir Lecture from 1/13 Class](#)

[Memoir Topic: Family Relationships Built on Assump...](#)

[Memoir Topic](#)

[An Interview with Memoirist Mary Karr](#)

[Memoir Topic](#)

[Memoir Topics](#)

[Memoir Topic](#)

[Memoir topic](#)

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[Three writing memoir topics](#)

[Memoir Topic: My mother's old car](#)

[Nesting My parents gave memany gifts, among them ...](#)

[january 16 - three topics for my class memoir: 1\)...](#)

[DRC Request for a Note Taker](#)

[Kristin Bell Memoir Writing Topic](#)

[If you are having issues with Blogger...](#)

[Grealy Afterword by Ann Patchett](#)

["A memoir is a work of sustained narrative prose c...](#)

[Writing Exercise One \(From Class\)](#)

[WR 459 Course Schedule](#)

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[What makes a memoir?](#)

[The 10 x 10 Exercise \(Writing Exercise](#)

The workshopping component of this class relies upon timeliness. A paper turned after the due date will lower your final course grade by one level (e.g. A to A-); excessive lateness to class meetings may also lower your grade. **Please also note that class absences cannot be made up: more than one unexcused absence will result in a lowering of final grade by a full letter (an A becomes a B), more than two absences will result in a failing grade.**

PSU DRC NOTICE

"Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Students with accommodations approved through the DRC are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through the DRC should contact the DRC immediately at 503-725-4150."

Posted by Cooper Lee B at 2:17 PM

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