

“Reading a memoir gives you a more acute idea of what it feels like to be alive.”

—Bernard Cooper, November 12, 2009, Reedley College

English 15E: Creative Writing--Nonfiction Prose  
Online

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Ms. Eileen Apperson

Office: Forum 7

Office hours: T/TH 11:00am-12:00pm

Zoom Office Hours: M/W/F 11:00am-12:00pm and by appt.

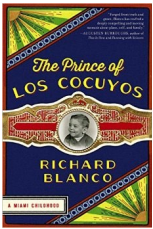
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### Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to learn the elements, appreciation, and craft of the nonfiction prose genre, develop constructive criticism skills used in responding to others' writing as well as to one's own, and to engage in the practice of writing nonfiction prose.

### Required Text/Materials:



Richard Blanco, *The Prince of los Cocuyos: A Miami Childhood*. Richard Blanco has been a frequent visitor to Reedley College.



Download your free version of Office 365. All work must be completed in Microsoft Word.

### Minimum Class Requirements to Pass English 15E

#### Writing Assignments:

*Discussion Forum Posts*—weekly Discussion Forum posts will be required. These posts will cover various topics regarding Creative Nonfiction (CNF), assigned authors' work, and reflections on that week's writing exercises. The more thorough and complex your responses and replies, the higher your score will be. Use academic language when writing your responses—no texting language. Since these discussions are time-sensitive, extensions will not be granted.

*Writing Exercises*—weekly writing exercises will be assigned. These exercises are short and varied, usually practicing the week's topic. These exercises may be used as a starting point for your short or long prose submissions.

*Short Prose*—weekly writing, usually two pages minimum each. These too may be a starting point for your longer prose. At least two **revised** short prose pieces will be included in the final portfolio of your written work. Extension on short prose assignments may be granted with an email request and self-imposed due date.

*Workshopped Prose*—two five page (minimum) original prose pieces of your own will be workshopped during the semester. Copies of these must be posted one week prior to the workshop date. **Revised** work must be included in the final portfolio.

**Note:**

1. Keep all drafts of your writing. These will be required for your portfolio and final grading purposes.
2. It is expected that all writing will be generally free of grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors.
3. Late workshop prose pieces may not be workshopped and will detrimentally affect your final grade.

**Due Dates:**

Generally, assignments will be posted by noon on Friday for the following week, providing you more than one week to complete assignments. Assignments for the week will be due by Sundays at midnight.

If you do not respond to the first Discussion Forum post by the due date, you will be considered a “no-show” and may be dropped from the course.

**Reading Assignments:**

Weekly published prose will be assigned and used as a catalyst for the weekly writing and discussion forum assignments.

**Attendance/Participation:**

Class participation is vital in a workshop class such as this. Points will be given to exercises, short and workshopped prose, and discussion forum posts including quality of responses to peers’ writing as well as assigned readings and general conversation about the creative nonfiction genre. Your final grade will suffer the consequences of lack of participation. It is a good idea to check Canvas and email daily, setting your notifications accordingly.

**Other Course Information**

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s words, ideas, or, experiences as your own. You will be caught, receive no credit on the assignment, and reported to the administration per college guidelines.

**Accommodations:**

Please inform me of any special circumstances you have. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including alternate media requests, please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

**Grading:**

You will be graded on a weighted point system scale. In addition to participation, these grades will be based largely on the effort and completion of assignments, correctness, and degree of revision of your written work and less on talent. If you are failing the course at mid-term, you may automatically be dropped. \*Grading percentages are as follows:

- Portfolio=40% (all previous drafts must be included)
- 8+ pages of revised workshopped prose
- 6+ pages of revised writing exercises/short prose

Writing assignments completion grade=30%  
20+ pages of short writing assignments  
10+ pages of prose for workshop

Participation=30%  
Written responses to assigned reading  
Written responses to peers' writing  
Written responses to weekly discussion forum conversations/questions

\*All assignments are subject to change. Additional assignments may be added at any time.

100% - 90% = A, 89% - 80% = B, 79% - 70% = C, 69% - 60% = D, 59%-50% = F

### **COURSE OUTCOMES FOR ENGLISH 15E:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Evaluate manuscripts of both professional models and student efforts on the basis of intention, merit, and craft, using shared critical vocabulary.
- B. Recognize and employ effective strategies for composing essays on the basis of received criticism.

**A final, important note:** Keep in mind that in this class and for your entire academic future as well, your education is dependent upon you. Your instructors are resources and facilitators. It is you who is responsible for the learning that takes place.

#### **English 15E Schedule\***

Week	Week's Topic
1	Course introduction
2	What exactly is CNF?
3	Discovering the Theme in Your Writing; begin reading Richard Blanco
4	Real People
5	Recognizing and Writing Conflict
6	Objects and Memory
7	Truth and Memory
8	Ethics and the Characters We Write
9	Workshop 1; POV; Responding to another's writing; last day to drop a class for a "W" grade:
10	Workshop 2; Biography and Historical Writing
11	Workshop 3; Structure and the Segmented Essay
12	Workshop 4;
13	Workshop 5; Revision
14	Workshop 6; "Creativity" TED Talks
15	Workshop 7; Portfolio Guidelines
16	Workshop 8; Continuing your Writing and Publication
17	Portfolio of revised work due
18	Final Post

Each week a variety of viewing, reading, writing exercise, and short prose assignments will be due.

\*Subject to change. Please see Canvas Modules for each week's assignments.