

“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)

Ms. Eileen Apperson

Office: Forum 7

Office hours: M/W 10:00-11:00am and by appt.

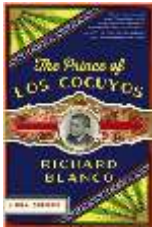
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Course Objective:

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. All responses must be **authentic**. Use academic language when writing your responses—no texting and non-proofread language. Since these discussions are time-sensitive, extensions cannot 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. Submissions must be **authentic**. **YOUR** voice is the purpose of what we do in this class. 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. At least one **revised** workshop submission must be included in the final portfolio, which is the main component of the final grade.

Note:

1. Keep all drafts of your writing. These will be required for your portfolio, final grading purposes, and to establish authenticity.
2. It is expected that all writing will be generally free of grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors. If you need help with this, please see a Reading & Writing Center tutor and/or me.
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 and two weekends to complete assignments. Assignments for the week will be due by Sundays at midnight.

If you do not attend an office hour during the first two weeks of the semester, you will be considered a “no-show” and may be dropped from the course. Office hours will be flexible during this time to accommodate students’ schedules.

Reading Assignments:

Weekly published prose will be assigned and used as a catalyst for the weekly writing and discussion forum assignments. The number and length of the reading assignments will vary each week but will not be onerous for a college transfer course.

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 announcements daily, setting your notifications accordingly.

Additional Course Information

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s words, ideas, or, experiences as your own. This includes using AI. You will be caught, receive no credit on the assignment, and reported to the administration per college guidelines. While AI may be useful in other pursuits, in a creative environment all ideas and topics need to come from you. If you are ever struggling with what to write, please talk to me. Some of the best ideas begin within a conversation.

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 and policies are subject to change to create a positive learning experience. 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 and instructor/student conversation
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.