

**University of Arkansas – Fort Smith**  
5210 Grand Avenue  
P. O. Box 3469  
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3469  
479-788-7000

## **General Syllabus**

### **RHET 3703 Nonfiction Writing**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: RHET 2863 Advanced Composition, or RHET 3103 Editing for Usage, Style, and Clarity, or ENGL 2853 Introduction to Creative Writing, or RHET 3513 Imaginative Writing, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Study and practice of creative nonfiction writing to explore, investigate, and explain ideas, experiences, and perspectives. Includes reading and analyzing creative nonfiction writing and writers. Emphasizes voice, style, and revision in informal nonfiction writing.

##### **B. Additional Information**

None.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Organize, develop, and explain ideas and experiences in a variety of creative nonfiction forms.
2. Use elements of creative nonfiction writing effectively in creating short nonfiction pieces.
3. Use effective strategies for editing, revising and refining, especially elements of voice, style and readability.
4. Use analytical and interactive skills by peer review and analysis of student work.

## **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

### **Analytical Skills**

#### **Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

#### **Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

#### **Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

#### **Global & Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

## **III. Major Course Topics**

- A. Developing an effective process of exploring ideas
- B. Tone and voice as elements of creative nonfiction writing
- C. Form and development of informal essays and other forms of creative nonfiction
- D. Elements of usage, diction, and style
- E. Editing and revising for clarity, conciseness, details, structure, consistency, and coherence