

ENG 5300: Creative Nonfiction

Worth: 25% (15% creative work, 10% reflective statement)

Due: May 18, by midnight PST. Uploaded to Canvas. Email me if you'd like proof of receipt.

We have no exam. This is your final.

INSTRUCTIONS

For this class final, I will ask you to submit the revised mining memoir task, the character/place task, and a final memoir/autoethnography.

Final Memoir/Autoethnography Task

There are two options for this:

- a) Combine your mining memory and/or space/character pieces, adding in more to make a braided memoir.
- b) Write a braided memoir about a subculture to which you belong, in which you discuss what your identity is within this space.

DETAILS about Final Memoir/Autoethnography

- Both of the above options will require you to write a braided memoir (the name for a memoir that uses page breaks to separate distinctive “strands,” such as “How to Tell A True War Story,” “Corn Maze,” “Portrait of the Artist As a Young Stalker,” and to a degree, “Let’s Talk About Shredded Romaine Lettuce.”) You will be trying to weave together anecdotes with argumentation, analysis of texts or pop-culture, theory, history, science, quotations: you name it!
- As these are memoirs, they should be focused on some aspect of your personal experience.
- I expect that you’ll submit a final memoir/autoethnography of 5-20 double-spaced pages. I do not expect these autoethnographies/memoirs to be *perfect or finished*—they are works in progress! But your writing should be clean and proofread.

FINAL PORTFOLIO

The portfolio will contain four parts:

1. Revised (though not necessarily complete) final memoir/autoethnography
2. Additional revised creative pieces written for mining memoir and character/space essay, even if these were amalgamated and made into the final memoir/autoethnography, if option a) was chosen.
3. Reflective statement
4. Tags (not graded)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINAL PORTFOLIO

1. Write a final memoir/autoethnography, choosing either prompt a) or b) on this assessment sheet.
2. Revise your Mining Memory Essay and your Character/Space Essay using the feedback from your peers and Kate. If you are doing option a) for the final memoir, then just include the drafts you had before expanding the piece for the autoethnography.
3. Write a 2 page (double-spaced) reflective statement in which you describe what you were attempting with your revision(s) for 1. And 2., what changes you made, and what effects you hoped they would bring to the fore.

Please use examples. Quote from your drafts. Refer to particular changes and pieces of language. Be specific. I would recommend writing at least two pages, as this is the most important part of your grade. You are welcome to write more.

You may also choose to talk about any of these:

- Your original expectations of this class
- What you thought your thesis would be before, what you think it is now
- In what ways you hope to improve and develop your thesis in the future
- What parts you are most proud of, or what achievement you are most proud of this semester
- How writing the thesis has connected you to others, the world, or yourself

This reflection does not need to be formal (first-person and slang are fine), but it should be analytical, precise, and make use of some terms and techniques we've discussed in class. You may quote authors we have discussed in class and should quote specific lines from your own work.

4. Combine 1-3 in one document. These components don't need to be arranged in any particular way or with title pages.
5. At the end of your whole document leave a line and put in the following:

EDRspring
EDReng5300
EDRsemester[total number of semesters at CSUSB, including this one; count quarters as one semester]
EDRwriting
EDRsemanticmultiplicity

So, your block of text should look exactly like the following, but with **your** number of semesters/quarters at CSUSB replacing the “4” in the semester EDR:

EDR2024
EDRspring
EDReng5300
EDRsemester4
EDRwriting
EDRsemanticmultiplicity

You just type these in at the end of the word document, exactly as I've formatted them above.

Why are we doing this? The English Department is trying to figure out whether students are meeting specified learning outcomes, so that we can adjust our programs accordingly. Your pieces will be anonymized by me, so there will be no way anyone can identify you. I will then send them in a batch to the committee. The purpose is not to judge anyone, but to measure very specific course outcomes, and to try to come up with ways to ensure that future English majors at CSUSB learn the skills we promise we teach! After the pieces are viewed by the curriculum committee, they will be deleted. Speak to me if you are concerned about this.

6. Submit the final draft to the assessment folder on Canvas by midnight 18 May, PST. If you want a receipt, email me a copy as a word document, pdf, or rtf. I will confirm receipt. The file name doesn't matter, but it will be helpful if you put a 5300 in there, like “Final Project_Stella Wang_ENG5300.”

MORE DEETS

- You can submit your final project or your whole portfolio to me up until the 16th of May for a sense of what your grade will be. I will try to respond promptly, but I may be delayed in response and unable to give you a deep read if you submit a draft to me later than that. I want you all to be able to get the grade you want, so I try to be as transparent as I can about such things.
- The reflective statement is where you prove to me that you have been thoughtful and made changes, so put effort into it. It is worth 10% of your grade, but it also influences the way I

view the 15% that is your creative work. I grade not on ability, but effort and improvement, so explain the effort you have put into your work through revision.

- The Final Portfolio should be at least 5 double-spaced pages, but will probably be more like 10+. If under five pages, your grade may be affected. The reflective statement does not count in the page count.
- I have included a rubric for each of these elements below. This is how I will grade your final thesis. Look at these and see if you are including the elements required for an A response.

A Portfolio that Gets an “A”:

- Will show ample evidence of deep structural change based on workshop feedback (varying content, order, style, perspective, or format of story/stories, not just individual words or phrases [patch writing]).
- Will have an introduction/introductions that “hooks” us with a compelling dilemma, incongruity, dramatic action, or promise of conflict.
- If finished, will have what could loosely be termed an orientation, complication, escalation, climax, and resolution, although any story structure that creates tension and has something “change” will be fine. If an alternative narrative structure is used, the reflective statement should engage it. If the memoirs do not reach the later stages, the structure of the beginning will be looked at, and you can discuss what changes you plan to make going forward.
- Will include imagery that appeals to a variety of senses (touch, taste, sight, sound, smell).
- Will have been proofread.
- Will follow basic conventions of chosen form, including use of transitions to indicate a move in space/time, formatting of dialogue, use of dialogue tags for clarity, tense agreement (unless the piece is being experimental, in which case the experiment needs to be consistent and intentional).
- Will display a somewhat unquantifiable degree of vulnerability, pathos, daring, originality, or meaning. Will be risky, rather than purely imitative.

A Reflective Statement that Gets an “A”:

- Will state what you were attempting in your pieces and your revisions.
- Will provide examples of specific changes you made.
- Will state what effect you were hoping these changes would have on the reader, in terms of the meaning they took from the text.
- Quote from your own creative work at least three times.
- Will be two double-spaced pages, but probably more.
- Will be proof-read and use punctuation required for quotations. Can be semi-formal (in first person), but will be written in the somewhat intellectual and authoritative tone of an educated blog post.