Course Title: Creative Non-fiction

Instructor: Scott Morgan

Course Description: Compelling nonfiction follows the same techniques as compelling fiction - character development, plotting, pacing, story development, drama, emotion, and research. Learn the techniques of writing real life into page-turning nonfiction. Creative nonfiction encompasses memoirs, news stories, biographies, historical essays, belles lettres, academic texts, magazine features, and so on.

Hours: 18  Sessions: 6

Course Objectives:
1. Why "That's what really happened" isn't compelling on its own
2. Story pacing
3. Story structure
4. Ethics
5. Basic research and interviewing techniques

Lessons:

Session 1: Introductions. Types of nonfiction. What is creative nonfiction. Finding the story you want to tell. Ethics (dealing with real people in real life). Go over what students are working on at home. Using your voice to tell the story (because it's your story, even if it's not your personal story).


Session 3: Story. Structure and architecture. Pacing. 'Plot' (aka, the focus and narrative direction). Outlining/flow. What to include, what to omit. Sanctifying vs. vilifying real people (aka, the ethics and impact of romanticizing the story). Presentation. Why "That's what really happened" isn't compelling.


Session 6: Non-writing aspects: Time management. Pandora's Box – Dealing with the fallout (be willing to take your lumps). The emotional toll of finding things out. The emotional toll of putting your story out in public. Books to read and movies to watch for inspiration.
Course Sessions: listed are a guideline to indicate all topics that will be covered during your course. Do not plan your personal calendar based on these sessions. Your instructor will give you a calendar for your class that will indicate specific topics, assignments, and days.

Method of Evaluation: Unless otherwise stated, course completion is evaluated on the basis of attendance. Students must be in attendance 90% of the class time in order to be considered a successful completer of the course.

Students must be in attendance 90% of each course in a certificate series for successful completion and to earn a certificate as specified.

Students must complete all courses (core and no. of elective courses needed) to complete a certificate series within two years from start date of the first course taken.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Collin College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the ACCESS office, SCC-G200 or 972.881.5898 (V/TTD: 972.881.5950) to arrange for appropriate accommodations. See the current Collin Student Handbook for additional information.  

http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/personal/studenthandbook.aspx