

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM 2000-2001

NON-GENERAL EDUCATION PROCESS A

***DEADLINES:** Deadline dates for 2000/2001 submissions: Regular proposals: October 20, 2000 to be implemented in Fall 2001; Short-Term proposals: December 8, 2000 to be implemented in Fall, 2001; Regular proposals February 16, 2001 to be implemented in Spring, 2002; March 23, 2000 for short-term courses to be implemented in Spring 2002.

PROPOSAL TITLE: Literary Journalism c 602-515

SPONSOR(S): Julia Chang

DEPARTMENT: Journalism and Creative Writing

COLLEGE: Communication

IF LAS CHECK ONE: History/Humanities Math/Sciences Social/Behavioral Sciences

Check one: Undergraduate Graduate

THE ATTACHED **NON-GEN-ED** PROPOSAL IS BEST DESCRIBED BY THE ITEM(S) CHECKED.

New non-gen-ed course

Short-term non-gen-ed course

Minor curricular changes (fewer than three) to:

existing non-gen-ed course

non-gen-ed degree requirements

major

minor, specialization, concentration, track, certificate program

DEPARTMENT
(Signature indicates approval)

[Signature] 10/19/2000

Dept. Curriculum Chair / Date

[Signature] 10/19/2000

Dept. Chairperson / Date

ACADEMIC DEAN

Approved Not Approved Comments: _____

Dean's Signature/Date [Signature] 10/30/00

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Date of open hearing (if necessary) 4/29/00 Approved Not Approved

Comments: added letters of recommendation

Signature of College Chair/Date: _____

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Date Received/Processed 6/13/01

Comments: one added - however, other affected depts were represented at hearing.

Curriculum Chair Signature [Signature] Date Announced At Senate 6/13/01

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST

Approved Not Approved If no, reasons are as follows:

Student Credit Hours _____ Faculty Load Hours _____ Equalized Credit Hours _____

Official Copy & Approval Sheet Filed (Date): _____ Executive VP/Provost Signature/Date [Signature] 6/19/01

REGISTRAR

Date Approved Course Description Received _____ Hegis Taxonomy & Course Number Assigned _____

Registrar Signature/Date [Signature] 6/25/01

NOTIFICATION FORWARD

Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson Academic Dean(s) 6/22/01
 Department Chairpersons Registrar _____ Sponsor(s)

1. Details of the Proposed Course

This section lists and explains the *title, credit hours, course level, prerequisites, time and scale of implementation, curricular effect, adequacy of present resources, and recommended library resources* as they pertain to the proposed course.

Course Title:

Literary Journalism.

Sponsor:

Julia Chang, Department of Journalism and Creative Writing. The proposal is sponsored by the Department of Journalism and Creative Writing in the College of Communication.

Credit Hours:

The course will carry 3 credit hours.

Course Level:

Literary Journalism will be a graduate-level course in Rowan University's Master's in Writing program.

Prerequisites:

Core 1 or permission of instructor.

Suggested Time and Scale of Implementation

The course will first be offered in Spring, 2002. This course will be offered once per academic year.

Curricular Effect:

Literary Journalism will not duplicate other offerings in the Master's in Writing graduate program or other graduate courses offered by Rowan University. Literary Journalism offers a unique opportunity for students interested in the application of literary techniques to nonfiction to read widely in the genre, critique their readings, and produce substantial works of their own. This course will be repeatable once for students matriculated in the graduate program.

Adequacy of the Present Staff, Resources, and Space Needs.

Staff: The course will be taught by faculty from the department of Journalism and Creative Writing.

Resources: Facilities are currently adequate. No special facilities, other than a classroom equipped to show videotapes, are required. Moreover, the Department of Journalism and Creative currently holds a membership in Associated Writing Programs, an organization of some 300 creative writing programs in North American. We receive of the AWP Chronicle, a major publication dealing with the pedagogy of creative writing, including literary journalism.

Space: The department has adequate classroom space to accommodate the course.

Funds: The course will be taught in load by a faculty member of the Department of Journalism and Creative Writing. The department plans one new hire for Fall 2001, allowing all courses to be adequately staffed within budget.

Recommended Library Resources

The library currently has a reasonably large collection of books in the genre and about the genre. The listing of current holdings is attached as Appendix A. However, the collection is dated in parts and I recommend the additional purchase of 15 books and three periodicals, at a cost of approximately \$300 for the books and \$150 yearly for the periodicals. The proposed additions are listed in Appendix B.

2. Rationale for the Course

Literary Journalism is often defined as the branch of nonfiction writing that involves application of poetic and fictional techniques to nonfiction writing. The genre includes personal essay, lyric essay, memoir, food and travel writing, and more literary explorations of current events and political and social issues. Literary journalists such as Gay Talese (who is scheduled to lecture to our graduate students early in 2001), Tom Wolfe, and Joan Didion have pioneered the type of in-depth plotting and character development that has come to symbolize the field. Literary Journalism is also one of the newer frontiers of writing and offers unparalleled opportunities for exploration of characters, events, and the interplay between the two. Two recent best-selling memoirs -- Frank McCourt's **Angela's Ashes** and Mary Karr's **The Liar's Club**, are examples of this phenomenon. In addition, the field of Literary Journalism offers significant opportunities for writers to publish books, articles, and essays.

The course will be an ideal addition to Rowan University's Master's in Writing program because it blends elements of creative writing and journalism. Exploring the inter-relationship between those two fields is one of the program's goals. Moreover, faculty members in the program are drawn from both disciplines. The course, therefore, is a natural extension of the program's offerings.

3. Essence of the Course

This section lists and explains the course's *objectives, content, and evaluation procedures.*

Objectives of the Course

- When students complete this course, they will be able to:
- Articulate the elements of Literary Journalism, clearly demonstrating an understanding of the principles and practice of the genre.
- Read works of Literary Journalism with a practiced and critical eye.
- Produce a variety of works that can be categorized as Literary Journalism, including essays, profiles, so-called literary essays, and issue pieces.
- Fluently adapt fictive techniques to nonfiction writing within literary and ethical bounds.
- Comprehend the ethical framework in which Literary Journalism must be approached.

Topical Outline and Content

Literary Journalism will meet once weekly.

Two of the anticipated texts are Talese and Lounsberry's *Writing Creative Nonfiction: The Literature of Reality* and *The Fourth Genre, Contemporary Writers of/on Creative Nonfiction*, edited by Robert L. Root, Jr. and Michael Steinberg.

Other works that may be assigned in whole or part:

Gutkind, *The Art of Creative Nonfiction: Writing and Selling the Literature of Reality*

Hampl, *I Could Tell You Stories*

Hersey, *Hiroshima*

McPhee, *The John McPhee Reader*.

Kathleen Dean Moore, *Riverwalking*

Annie Dillard, “*Living Like Weasels*”

Joan Didion, *Slouching Toward Bethlehem*

Philip Lopate, ed., *The Art of the Personal Essay*

Wolfe, *The Electric Cool-Aid Acid Test*

During a typical semester, the course content would be broken down this way:

Week 1 Introduction; course requirements.

Week 2 The origins of Literary Journalism: Benchley, Thurber, Talese, Capote, Wolfe, Didion, Dillard, etc.

Week 3 The personal essay. Read and discuss examples such as Philip Lopate’s “Portrait of my Body,” Mary Clearman Blew’s “The Unwanted Child.”

Week 4 The personal essay, continued. In-class readings and critiques.

Weeks 5-6: The profile. What makes a profile in this genre different from standard profiles? Discussion of Talese’s groundbreaking “Joe DiMaggio” profile and Lillian Roth’s Hemingway profile.

Week 7: Personal experience. Readings from Wolfe and Plimpton.

Weeks 8-9: Reporting on social issues. Immersion journalism. Becoming part of the story – the problems and the promise of personal involvement. Readings in immersion and explanatory journalism to include Tracy Kidder, Leon Dash, Jonathon Kozol, Robert Coles.

Week 10: The Critical Essay. Readings from Leslie Marmon Silko, Kathleen Norris, Lewis Thomas.

Weeks 11-12: Memoir, personal experience as literature, or the genre of the new millenium. Readings from Mary Clearman Blew, Tobias Wolfe, Kathryn Harrison, Patricia Hampl.

Weeks 13-14: Student presentations; critique of student projects.

Evaluation and Grading Procedure of Students

Students will be graded on their performance in class discussions, a formal presentation, and several writing projects.

Writing projects:

Students will submit:

- A comprehensive critique and analysis of a book-length work of Literary Journalism chosen from an approved list.
- Five short pieces, including journal writings
- A major (about 3,000 words) profile incorporating specified literary techniques
- A major (about 3,500 words) first-person experience or first-person reportage piece, a memoir or an autobiographical essay
- A major (about 2,500 words) essay on a topic of cultural or political interest, also employing specified literary techniques

The Presentation: Each student will prepare an analysis of a representative author's work and deliver an approximately 20-minute presentation, highlighting the techniques, methods, and constructions used in the piece.

Course Evaluation

Standard student evaluations will be administered during the final weeks of the course. Also, members of the departmental curriculum committee will be invited to view the process and the product.

4. Consultation

Letters from interested parties are attached in an appendix to this proposal.

6. Catalog Description

Literary Journalism. Literary Journalism teaches students the form, structure and technique of the genre of creative nonfiction. Students write works of nonfiction employing techniques usually associated with fiction or poetry, developing works that provide a unique insight into events, characters, and issues. During the course, students extensively analyze works of pioneering literary journalists as well as newly emerging practitioners of the genre, and write several major pieces, including profiles, personal and/or lyric essays, and reportage on social issues.

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Appendix A

Current Library Holdings

Books About Print Journalism and Journalism in General

Barnhart, Thomas Frederick, Weekly newspaper writing and editing. New York, Dryden Press. 1949.

Bernstein, Theodore Menline, More language that needs watching; second aid for writers and editors, emanating from the news room, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1962.

Berry, Thomas Elliott, Journalism in America: an introduction to the news media. New York: Hastings House, 1976.

Brennecke, Ernest, Magazine article writing. New York, Macmillan, 1930.

Campbell, Laurence Randolph, 1903. Newsmen at work; reporting and writing the news. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1949.

Cirino, Robert, Power to persuade: mass media and the news. New York: Bantam Pathfinder Editions. 1974.

Click, J. W. , Magazine editing and production. Dubuque, Iowa: W. C. Brown Co. 1974.

Coblentz, Edmond D., comp., Newsmen speak; journalists on their craft. Freeport, N.Y., Books for Libraries Press. 1968.

Copple, Neale, Depth reporting; an approach to journalism. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall. 1964.

Cunliffe, John Williams, ed., Writing of today: models of journalistic prose. 4th and rev. ed. New York: The Century Co., 1925.

Dana, Charles A, The art of newspaper making. New York, Arno. 1970.

Doig, Ivan, News, a consumer's guide. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1972.

English, Earl, Scholastic journalism. Ames: Iowa State University Press. 1962.

Ferguson, Rowena, Editing the small magazine. New York: Columbia University Press 1963.

Gerald, J. Edward, The social responsibility of the press. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1963.

Hohenberg, John, Concise Newswriting. New York: Hastings House, 1987.

Hohenberg, John. The professional journalist: a guide to the practices and principles of the news media. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1969.

How a magazine is published [videorecording]. Maumee, Ohio: Instructional Video. 1989.

Hudson, Frederic, Journalism in the United States, from 1690-1872. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1873.

Hughes, Helen, News and the human interest story. New York: Greenwood Press. 1968.

Improving Newswriting: the best of The Bulletin of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. New York, American Society of Newspaper Editors, 1982.

Journalism and popular culture. London: Sage Publications. 1992.

Kennedy, Bruce M., Community journalism; a way of life. [1st ed.]. Ames:Iowa State University Press. 1974.

Kobre, Sidney, Backgrounding the news. Oakland, Calif.: Acme Books. 1969.

LeRoy, David J., Mass news: practices, controversies, and alternatives. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall. 1973.

Liberating the media: the new journalism. Washington: Acropolis Books, 1974.

MacDougall, Curtis Daniel, Interpretative reporting. 5th ed. New York: Macmillan,1968.

Mayer, Martin, Making news. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1987.

Mayer, Martin, Making news. Rev. and updated [ed.]. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1993.

Mayeux, Peter E., Broadcast news: writing & reporting. 2nd ed [rev.]. Madison [Wis.]: Brown & Benchmark, 1996.

McClendon, Sarah, Reporting from the White House [sound recording]. 1982.

Media, myths, and narratives: television and the press. Newbury Park, Calif.: Sage Publications, 1988.

Meyer, Philip, Precision journalism: a reporter's introduction to social science methods. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1973.

Moyers, Bill D., The human responsibility of journalism [sound recording]. 1982.

Neal, Robert Miller, News gathering and news writing. New York, Prentice-Hall, 1940.

The News media in national and international conflict. Boulder: Westview Press. 1984.

Newsmen's holiday. Nieman essays, first series. Freeport, N.Y.: Books for Libraries Press. 1969.

Patterson, Helen Marguerite, Writing and selling feature articles, 3d ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall. 1956.

Peacocke, Emilie Hawkes, Writing for women. London, A. & C. Black, 1956.

Pesmen, Sandra, Writing for the media. Lincolnwood, IL: NTC Business Books, 1983.

Plain talk about the word business. Washington, Public Affairs Press, 1970.

Pray, Isaac Clarke, Memoirs of James Gordon Bennett and his times. New York: Arno. 1970.

Presson, Hazel, The student journalist and interviewing. Rev. ed. New York: R. Rosen Press, 1989.

Reid, Whitelaw, American and English studies. Freeport, N.Y., Books for Libraries Press, 1968.

Rucker, Frank Warren, Newspaper organization and management, 3d ed. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1969.

Waldrop, Arthur Gayle, Editor and editorial writer, 3d ed. Dubuque, Iowa: W. C. Brown Co. , 1967.

Walker, Stanley, City editor. New York: Frederick A. Stokes, 1967.

Westley, Bruce H., News editing. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972.

Wilhelm, Donald George, . Writing for profit. New York: McGraw-Hill. 1930.

Journalism Periodicals

The Author's & writer's who's who. London: Burke's Peerage, Ltd.

Columbia journalism review.

Editor & publisher.

Journalism & mass communication quarterly.

The Journalism quarterly.

Nieman reports.

Appendix B: Suggested Additions to the Library's Holdings

Books:

Creative Nonfiction : Researching and Crafting Stories of Real Life by

Philip Gerard (Paperback - March 1999)

The Art of Creative Nonfiction : Writing and Selling the Literature of Reality (Wiley Books for Writers Series) by Lee Gutkind (Paperback - February 1997)

Creative Nonfiction : How to Live It and Write It
by Lee Gutkind. Paperback (May 1996)

Creative Nonfiction: Emerging Women Writers II, Issue 12
by Lee Gutkind(Editor). Mass Market Paperback (October 1, 1999)

Creative Nonfiction: Style and Substance, Issue 10
by Lee Gutkind(Editor). Mass Market Paperback (October 1, 1998)

Creative Nonfiction: The Brain: A Nonfiction Mystery, Issue 13
by Lee Gutkind(Editor). Mass Market Paperback (May 1, 1999)

Creative Nonfiction: The Universal Chord, Issue 9
by Lee Gutkind(Editor). Mass Market Paperback (June 1, 1998)

Creative Nonfiction: What Men Think, What Men Write, Issue 14
by Lee Gutkind(Editor). Mass Market Paperback (May 1, 2000)

The Essayist at Work : Profiles of Creative Nonfiction Writers
by Lee Gutkind(Editor), Annie Dillard. Paperback (January 1998)

Lessons in Persuasion : Creative Nonfiction/Pittsburgh Connections
(General, Essays, Nonfiction)

A View from the Divide : Creative Nonfiction on Health and Science
by Lee Gutkind(Editor). Paperback (February 1999)

350 Fabulous Writing Prompts : Thought-Provoking Springboards for
Creative, Expository, and Journal Writing

Bird by Bird : Some Instructions on Writing and Life
by Anne Lamott(Reader). Audio Cassette (June 1996)

Born Southern and Restless (Emerging Writers in Creative Nonfiction)
by Kat Meads. Paperback (November 1996)

Periodicals

Creative Nonfiction

Boulevard

Ploughshares



Department of Journalism and Creative Writing

Date: Nov. 28, 2000
To: Professor Julia Chang
From: Carl Hausman, Chair, Journalism and Creative Writing Department
Re: Literary Journalism Course

I am in full, unhesitating support of the proposal for Literary Journalism.

I believe that it covers the field coherently and cohesively, and in addition appears to be a fascinating collection of lecture material and readings.

At a time when many genres are converging, a course such as this serves us well. It illuminates the connection among genres and clearly demonstrates how applying techniques from one genre to another can increase the impact of a piece.