

**School of Letters
2021 Book List**

Literature Classes

ENGL 503 | Literary Criticism

Dr. Mark Rasmussen

(Note: Students must absolutely get the third edition--very different content from editions one and two.)

The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism, third edition
ISBN: 978-0393602951

ENGL 507 | The Craft of Poetry

Tiana Clark

Voyage of the Sable Venus: And Other Poems, Robin Coste Lewis
ISBN: 978-1101911204

Thrall: Poems, Natasha Trethewey
ISBN: 978-0544586208

Bellocq's Ophelia, Natasha Trethewey
ISBN: 978-1555973599

The Cineaste: Poems, A. Van Jordan
ISBN: 978-0393348736

Still Life with Two Dead Peacocks and a Girl: Poems, Diane Seuss
ISBN: 978-1555978068

ENGL 518 | Forms of Nonfiction

Jessica Goudeau

(Note: It doesn't matter to me which version students have; I'm always happy for them to buy whatever's cheapest.)

The Devil's Highway, Luis Alberto Urrea
ISBN: 978-0316010801

Notes of a Native Son, James Baldwin
ISBN: 978-0807006238

Evicted, Matthew Desmond
ISBN: 978-0553447453

Fun Home, Alison Bechdel
ISBN: 978-0544709041

Rarely in the history of the United States has writing for social change felt more urgent—or been more marketable—for nonfiction writers than now. Though their approaches are very different, journalists, memoirists, essayists, and other nonfiction writers often begin their work from a moment of frustration, a sense that a story, a situation, or an idea is not right and should be changed. Once the book is released, rave reviewers of nonfiction books often praise authors' ability to "humanize" an experience and "shine a light" on injustice, or they make bold claims about a work's ability to "move hearts and minds" and "change the world." But few nonfiction writers actually learn the methodology—the techniques, approaches, and principles—to move from that moment of noticing injustice to a well-written and persuasive final book that can contribute to the social good.

*This class will examine the history of nonfiction in the US and different types of writing that were catalysts for social change. We'll look at essays (*Notes of a Native Son* by James Baldwin (1955)); literary journalism (*The Devil's Highway*, Luis Alberto Urrea, 2004); memoir/graphic narrative (*Fun Home*, Alison Bechdel, 2006); and sociology (*Evicted*, Matthew Desmond, 2016); among other readings. Because nonfiction covers such a wide range of issues, students will have an element of choice both for some additional readings, and in writing either a critical or creative response. And since nonfiction can be "kitchen sink" sort of writing that draws from a variety of disciplines, this class will be beneficial for literary scholars and writers of all genres.*

ENGL 598 | Forms of Fiction: Time, Structure, and Strategy in the Short Novel

Chris Bachelder

That Night, Alice McDermott
ISBN: 978-0312681166

Seize the Day, Saul Bellow
ISBN: 978-0142437612

Winter in the Blood, James Welch
ISBN: 978-0143105220

Red at the Bone, Jacqueline Woodson
ISBN: 978-059308752

Chronicle of a Death Foretold, Gabriel García Márquez
ISBN: 978-1400034710

The Buddha in the Attic, Julie Otsuka
ISBN: 978-0307744425

The Optimist's Daughter, Eudora Welty
ISBN: 978-0679728832

Writing Workshops

ENGL 509 | Workshop in Poetry

Nickole Brown

(Note: I'd like to suggest—though not require—that students read these books before the residency starts in June; it will give them that much more time to write.)

Indigo, Ellen Bass

ISBN: 978-1556595752

Kettle Bottom, Diane Gilliam Fisher

ISBN: 978-0966045970

Forest Primeval, Vievee Francis

ISBN: 978-0810132436

Thieve, Joe Wilkins

ISBN: 978-0899241661

The Art of Description: World into Word, Mark Doty

ISBN: 978-1555975630

ENGL 510A | Workshop in Fiction

Jamie Quatro

(Note: I've decided, this year, to put together a packet of short stories I've hand-selected, instead of using an anthology. We'll focus on stories the first four weeks. And then I've chosen two novellas to discuss during the last two weeks of the term.)

Bluets, Maggie Nelson

ISBN: 978-1933517407

The Summer Book, Tove Jansson

ISBN: 978-1590172681

ENGL 510B | Workshop in Fiction

Ryan Chapman

Object Lessons: The Paris Review Presents the Art of the Short Story

ISBN: 978-1250005984

ENGL 512 | Workshop in Nonfiction
Justin Taylor

How to Write an Autobiographical Novel: Essays, Alexander Chee
ISBN: 978-1328764522

The Argonauts, Maggie Nelson
ISBN: 978-1555977351

The Art of the Personal Essay: An Anthology from the Classical Era to the Present, Philip
Lopate (ed.)
ISBN: 978-0385422987