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CRWR 512.01: Nonfiction Workshop

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CRWR 512

Nonfiction Graduate Workshop

Spring 2019

Mondays 6:00-8:20pm

General Information

Instructor: Bryan Di Salvatore

Office: LA 121

Email: bryan.disalvatore@mso.umt.edu

Office hours: Mondays 10-1 and by appointment

Course Description

This is a graduate workshop, and I assume you all have works in progress, so the bulk of our time will be spent discussing each other's work kindly, honestly, thoughtfully. We will not demand that another's work be what we think it should be; rather, we will ask ourselves what the writer is striving for, what does the work itself want to be. If we are confused, we will ask for clarification. If we have notions that may entail "major route changes" in a piece, we will suggest rather than demand. We will, before we speak, have pondered and considered to the best of our ability. We will eschew malice and indignation. Writers, as a rule, are petty creatures, venomous and jealous. Save all that for the future.

When you hand out your piece to be discussed (or email it or however you do it) I would like you, the writer, to include your own concerns about and hopes for the piece. In short, what are you worried about? What are you trying to do here and there? Who, perhaps, are you trying to emulate? This way we have some guidance for our discussion. What I'm talking about is a sort of disrobement of your work-in-progress.

Additionally, for changes of pace, I will occasionally bring in pieces for discussion.

As well, each of you will make a short presentation to the class of a potential "market" for nonfiction writing. I'll explain that the first class.

Learning Outcomes

Sweet Baba J, what a peg-legged phrase! You will be released this spring much further along in your projects; you will be better writers of nonfiction; you will have discarded and overcome bad writing habits and misbegotten notion; you will have seen the errors of your ways; you will have recognized your strengths and embraced them. You will have gained the confidence to rewrite drastically, if necessary. Finally, you will be, if not more wholesome and worthwhile individuals, at least somewhat wiser in the ways of the written word and the wicked and heartless and, at times, blinded world of publishing.

You will, I hope, even have an epiphany or two.

Required Texts

None. What readings outside of our own I come up with I'll either put on Moodle or hand out.

Course Guidelines and Policies

This is a studio class; you wouldn't be here if you were not already dedicated and serious. Here's all I ask: don't miss a class in which your work is to be discussed; that is a mortal sin. It, a no-show, will lower your grade by a full letter. I don't expect this to be an issue, though life is complicated and exceptions might have to be made.

You will get your work to your fellow students electronically or however you want. I, however, being antediluvian, want hard copy and only hard copy in my gnarled hands. So, since our class meets on Mondays, I must have your hard copy (under my office door or in my mailbox in LA 129) by the previous Friday at 4:30.

Your comments/observations on a discussed-in-class work will be given to the writer and to me. I want mine as hard copy only.

Legally Required Stuff

Course withdrawal:

Make sure **you** know the last day you can drop the course with a refund and no "W" on your transcript, because I sure as hell don't.

Student Conduct Code:

Please familiarize yourself with the [Student Conduct Code website](#).

Disability Modifications:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors and [Disabilities Services for Students](#). If you think that you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance and you have **not** already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in the Lommasson Center 154 (406-243-2243). I will work with you and your Disabilities Services contact to provide appropriate modification.