Aug. 25  Introduction to Nonfiction
Introductions, lecture, and assigned readings
Exercise: Cookies
Reading: Crying In H Mart, Zauner
Discussion post: A picture tells a thousand words/intro

1. Memoir

Sept. 1
Discuss Zauner
Report: “Between the World and Me”
Exercise: “Fairy Tale Princess By Choice” - Imbach
Begin first project, Montaigne
Read: Lauren Hough, “I Was a Cable Guy.”

Sept. 8
Discuss Hough
Report: Gurba, “Mean”
Exercise: Names
Read: “Enjoli”

Sept. 15
Discuss “Enjoli”
Exercise: Montaigne Exercises, debrief
Read: “Here For It.”
Poss: guest

Sept. 22
Discuss: excerpt from “Here For it.”
Report: Laymon, “Heavy”
Exercise: Location
Read: “Frank Sinatra Has A Cold,” Talese
2. Reportage

Sept 29
Discuss Talese
Report: “Electric Kool-aid Acid Test”
Exercise: interview
Read: Tom Wolfe essay (TK)

MONTAIGNE ESSAY DUE

Oct. 6
Discuss: Tom Wolfe
Report on Wolfe
Present Montaigne essays/New Assignment presented
Read, Joan Didion, “Slouching Toward Bethlehem” (essay)

Oct. 13
Discuss Didion
Report on Olivia Laing, ‘The Lonely City”
Exercise: Discuss 33 1/3rd proposals
Read, (excerpt from) “Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail”

Oct. 20
Discuss Hunter S. Thompson
Report on Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail
Exercise: Voice mimicking
Read, Smith: Going Down on the Replacements

Oct. 27
Discuss Going Down on the Replacements
Report on “Let’s Talk About Love”
33 1/3 proposals
Read: Snowfall: The Avalanche at Tunnel Creek/Tolentino

Nov. 3
Discuss Snowfall/Tolentino
Exercise: Rewrite Romeo
Report: “Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self Delusion.” Tolentino
New Assignment/Final Project
Read: Greil Marcus, excerpt from History
3. Criticism/Analysis

Nov. 10
Discuss Greil, history (possible guest?)
Report “The History of Rock In Ten Songs” Marcus
Present 33 1/3rd proposals to class
Read: Hanif Abdurriqib, “In Defense of Trap Queen.”
Poss: guest

Nov. 17
Discuss Trap Queen
Exercise: video critiques
Present 33 1/3rd proposals to class

Nov. 24 THANKSGIVING BREAK: (OFF)
Dec. 1: Group Work on Final Projects – research strategies
Ex: every picture tells a story
Dec. 8: Group Work on Final Projects – submission strategies
Dec. 15 PRESENT FINAL PROJECTS

Essays/Memoir:
“Crying in H Mart” Michelle Zauner (from “Crying in H Mart).
https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/crying-in-h-mart

“I Was Cable Guy” – Lauren Hough (From “Leaving Isn’t the Hardest Thing.”)
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cable-tech-dick-cheney-sex-dungeon_n_5c0ea571e4b06484c9fd4c21

“Enjoli”—Kristi Coulter (From “Nothing Good Can Come of This.”)
https://humanparts.medium.com/https-medium-com-kristicoulter-the-24-hour-woman-3425ca5be19f

R. Eric Thomas: (From: ‘Here For It.’)
Hanif Abdurriqib “In Defense of Trap Queen.”
Reportage:

“Snowfall, The Avalanche at Tunnel Creek”

“Going Down With the Replacements” by RJ Smith

“Slouching Toward Bethlehem,” Joan Didion (From “Slouching Toward Bethlehem”) PDF

“Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail” Hunter Thompson PDF

“Frank Sinatra Has A Cold” -- Gay Talese

Tom Wolfe, excerpt from “Kandy Kolored”

Greil Marcus – PDF

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment #1.

Read one essay by Montaigne and comment on it in the form of an essay of your own on the same topic. Make sure that you include Montaigne’s thoughts and remember to raise the stakes.

https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3600/3600-h/3600-h.htm

Assignment #2:

Read one 33 1/3rd book, choose your own subject and write a book proposal for your own choice.

Suggested read: “Let’s Talk About Love: A Journey to the End of Taste.” Carl Wilson

https://333sound.com/how-to-submit/

FINAL ASSIGNMENT:

Write an essay for publication, using the genre of your choice: reportage, interview, criticism, narrative nonfiction or memoir. Submit query letter as well as essay.

3000 plus word
BOOKS

Choose ONE book to purchase/read and report on

Ta Nehisi Coates, “Between the World and Me.” *
Myriam Gurba, “Mean.”
Lindy West, “Shrill.”
Kiese Laymon, “Heavy”
Tom Wolfe, “The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test”
Hunter S. Thompson, “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”
Olivia Laing, “The Lonely City”
Greil Marcus, “The History of Rock n’ Roll In Ten Songs”
Carl Wilson, “Let’s Talk About Love.” *
Michelle Zauner, “Crying In H Mart” (suggested)
Lauren Hough, “Leaving Is Not The Hardest Thing” (suggested)
Kristi Coulter, “Nothing Good Can Come of This” (suggested)
Jia Tolentino, “Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self Delusion”
R. Eric Thomas, “Here For It.” (suggested)
Joan Didion, “Slouching Toward Bethlehem” (suggested)

* required