

Longform Journalism or Narrative/Literary Journalism
(Immersing Yourself in the Margins)
Spring 2016

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"The universe is made of stories, not atoms." – Muriel Rukeyser

"Fiction is a bridge to the truth that journalism can't reach."

- [Hunter Thompson](#)
USA Today, March 26, 1998

"Journalism, you see, always moves along on a horizontal plane, telling a story, while fiction — good fiction — moves vertically, taking you deeper and deeper into character and events. By treating a real event with fictional techniques (something that cannot be done by a journalist until he learns to write good fiction)."

-- Truman Capote

Course Description: This course will focus on the intersection between creative nonfiction and journalism, where research and fact converges with narrative structure and technique to create compelling stories that lead the writer through not just fact or story but rather an experience. We will be accomplishing this through extensive reading, researching, note taking, writing, work shopping, and talking. We are now more than a classroom of fellow students but a working editorial board where we will help each other brainstorm story ideas, interview questions, discuss structure, etc. It is my hope that together we will discover the power of how research and fact, combined with a narrative approach, can bring life to the stories that shape our lives and experiences of being human, taking them out of the shadows and into the light.

***Breakdown:**

Project Proposal	10 Points
Writing Activities	15 Points
Field notes (Daily progress/reflection reports and reading/research responses)	15 Points
Workshop Draft	10 Points
Final Draft (3000-4000 word Longform article)	30 Points
Oral Presentation	10 Points
Group Participation	10 Points

*I will provide more detailed information for these assignments. Also, the points may shift around but not by much. I will keep you posted to any changes that occur.

****Schedule:**

Regular classes will be held M-F from 9-11 am. I am available every day after class up until 4:30 for individual meetings. I highly recommend utilizing this afternoon time to meet with me to get as much feedback as possible on your project.

****** I will provide a more detailed schedule of course readings, assignments, due dates, etc. I'm waiting to hear back from a few more guest speakers. We have some exciting things lining up!

Assignments:

Due Saturday by 4pm: Revised Project Proposal

Revised Project Proposal based on your feedback from your peers as well as your understanding of *longform* articles.

Due Sunday by 4pm: Reader Response (1-2 Pages)

Please read through three *longform* articles. I will provide a list of links on Moodle, but some sources are longform.org, longreads.com, etc.

Write a brief synopsis of each article. Then, think about what the writer's objective was? How did they achieve it? What were some of the stylistic features that you noticed? How does length contribute to the overall effect/feel of the article? What are other observations you may have about this form?

Please submit your reader response in your corresponding Fieldnotes Folder on Google Docs. Don't worry, I will make this for you. All will be well.

And, once again thank you for your patience and understanding as I gather my bearings and get this course together.