



**ENGL 2340 G-Intro to Creative Nonfiction Writing Section Name Section Credit Hours Credits**  
**Syllabus**

## Course Information

**Meeting times and location:** Section Meeting Times Section Location

**Catalog description:** This course will introduce students to the basic elements of creative nonfiction. This course is a reading and workshop introduction to the fundamental working modes of creative nonfiction. Throughout this course, students will be expected to read classic and contemporary works in the various genres of creative nonfiction and analyze the craft features employed. They will be expected to write frequently in these genres. Students will explore techniques of nonfiction such as prosody, exposition, descriptive detail, and narrative voice.

**Prerequisites:** Take ENGL-1110 or obtain permission of instructor.

**Terms offered:** Spring Only

**Section-specific Course Description:**

## Course Level Objectives

1. Learn the elements of Creative Nonfiction writing and the attributes that an effective writer of Creative Nonfiction needs to be successful.

- a. Study and understand the component genres of Creative Nonfiction—travel, nature, memoir, personal essay, social commentary, science, history, etc.—and learn what makes each unique.
- b. Learn and demonstrate mastery of the various attributes of a writer of Creative Nonfiction—literary voice, keen observer, personal interaction with and empathy for the subject, openness to experience, among others.

2. Read and think creatively about selected Creative Nonfiction texts, analyzing elements, genres, styles, and organizational techniques and interpreting meaning.

- a. Read representative essays from the various genres of Creative Nonfiction, identifying key elements and themes.
  - b. Make connections, draw conclusions, and interact with ideas presented in reading selections.
  - c. Understand the creative elements of style, voice, and organization that are evident in the readings.
  - d. Distinguish the differences in meaning and approach among the different genres.
3. Generate creative and meaningful essays that reflect an understanding of the genres and the attributes of a writer of Creative Nonfiction.
- a. Write creative essays in various genres of Creative Nonfiction that reflect an understanding of the elements of the genre.
  - b. Write creative essays that demonstrate the attributes of a successful writer of Creative Nonfiction.
  - c. Write essays that analyze assigned readings and draw connections between them.
  - d. Understand and apply standard conventions of writing (spelling, grammar, punctuation, usage, diction, syntax).
4. Interact collaboratively as a means of sharing creative ideas and writing styles and of extending experience.
- a. Participate actively with respect and honesty in all group discussions.
  - b. Share ideas and analysis of assigned readings to extend understanding.
  - c. Participate in the positive critique and evaluation of the creative writing of fellow students.

## General Education Student Learning Outcomes

This course meets the requirements set forth by the state of New Mexico for a general education course that is transferable to any public institution of higher education in New Mexico. Each general education course addresses three essential skills as outlined in the table below.

General Education Content Area	Essential Skills Associated with the Content Area
Communication	Communication, Critical Thinking, Information & Digital Literacy
Creative and Fine Arts	Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility

Humanities	Critical Thinking, Information & Digital Literacy, Personal & Social Responsibility
Mathematics	Communication, Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning
Science	Critical Thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility, Quantitative Reasoning
Social & Behavioral Sciences	Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility

For further information on the Essential Skills, visit the [General Education Essential Skills](#) page.

## Required Texts and/or Materials

**Readings will cover a variety of nonfiction genres, including travel, nature, memoir, personal essay, social commentary, science, and history. One or more textbooks might be required. Your instructor might also provide readings on Canvas.**

## Required Technology and Software

- Canvas
- Chrome, Safari, or Firefox

## Course Requirements

Specific course activities and assignments will vary across sections, but here are some examples of the kinds of activities you might do in this course:

- Reading
- Small amounts of research (biographical, historical, etc.)
- Short writing assignments (i.e. response papers, discussion posts, etc.)
- Formal essays (i.e. memoir, interviewing)
- Quizzes
- Exams

## Other Classroom Policies and Expectations

Additional policies to be completed by instructor.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: There is much scholarship on many of the texts that we will be reading in this course. Please do not make the severe mistake of passing off any of that scholarship as your own. In academic writing, plagiarism is not just appropriating the words of someone else and passing them off as your own, but it's also taking someone else's ideas without giving them credit. While seeking out online resources can be beneficial in helping to clarify moments in the plot of a text, for example, it becomes a problem when it disallows you the opportunity to grapple with the text and discover your own interpretations and meanings. In doing so, you are really doing yourself, your classmates, and the literary text itself a huge disservice. We will sometimes conduct research in order to gain context (biographical, historical, cultural, etc.). When referencing information you learned through research, make sure to cite that information according to MLA guidelines.

San Juan College expects all students to adhere to the Academic Honesty Rules as posted on the college website: <http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/AcademicHonesty>. Plagiarism of all or a portion of any assignment will be strictly penalized, ranging from earning a zero on the assignment, to failing the class, or even suspension or expulsion from the College.

College Expectations: Please be advised that all students, including dual credit students and early college high school students, are subject to the same policies and standards regarding submission of late work, participation, conduct, and academic honesty as outlined in this syllabus. By enrolling in this SJC course, students understand that complex subject matter may be covered and that course content may be intellectually and emotionally challenging.

In complying with FERPA, I cannot and will not discuss any matters regarding any student's performance or standing in this class with friends, parents or family members. A FERPA waiver entitles your parents/guardians access to your grade records, which they can access through Canvas with your help. All students are encouraged to contact me whenever they have questions or concerns about this class. Students should practice self-advocacy as part of the college experience. It is an important step to becoming an independent and responsible person. It also helps strengthen the student/instructor relationship and the classroom community. As a result of the concerns for student autonomy and to avoid potential liability, I will not conference with parents or guardians regarding this class. I am, however, always happy to meet with students.

## Grading

Individual instructors will determine the grading scale for the course. The following grading scale is typically used, but may vary depending on the class:

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59-0 F

The specific assignments and the portion of your grade that those assignments are worth will vary across sections. For the most part, your instructor will keep grades posted on Canvas so you can easily keep track of your progress in the course. If at any time you have questions about your grade or are concerned about the quality of your work, please contact your instructor.

## Course Time Commitment

Every student works at a different pace, and some readings and assignments in this class will require more time and effort than others. However, you should keep in mind that the standard time commitment for a regular semester (16 week) 3-credit course is 6-9 hours per week for a face-to-face class and 9-12 hours per week for an online class. If you're enrolled in an 8-week course, you can expect to spend twice the amount of time each week on this course that you'd typically spend if it was a 16-week course.

## Canvas Participation and Expectations

Canvas participation and expectations will vary across sections.

## Participation and Attendance Policy

Specific participation and attendance policies vary across sections.

## Instructor Response Times & Regular Interaction Expectations

Sometimes problems arise that could affect your performance in this class. Your instructor is your best resource to advise you in these situations. Please contact him/her promptly if you have a question or if you're in need of assistance. At the beginning of the course, your instructor will provide you with information about how best to get hold of them. Most commonly, instructors will ask that you email

them, send them a Canvas message, or call them over the phone. Instructors will make every effort to respond to your messages in a timely manner.

## Key Dates to Remember

[Full Academic Calendar](#)

## Course Schedule

To be provided by instructor.

## Technical Support

Technical support is available through the San Juan College Help Desk 24/7/365. The help desk can be reached at 505-566-3266 or by creating a ticket at [San Juan College Help Desk](#).

For password reset and and Canvas support, visit the [Student Technology Guide](#) website.

## Accessibility/Privacy Policies for all Technology Tools Used

[Accessibility/Privacy Policies for all Technology Tools Used](#)

## Student Support

At San Juan College, we are committed to supporting your academic success and overall well-being. We recognize that college life can be challenging and stressful, impacting both learning and personal health. We are here to help you succeed.

### **Academic Support and Resources**

We provide a range of academic support services to help you stay on track on your educational journey. Free resources include tutoring, computer loans, life skills workshops, and so much more. Visit the [Academic Support and Resources](#) webpage to learn more about support and resources available through Academic Advising, the Tutoring Center, the Student Resource Center (formerly Student Achievement Center) and the Testing Center.

## **Student Support and Resources**

If you or someone you know could benefit from counseling, accessibility services, career exploration, veteran transitional assistance, or any of our other support services, visit the [Student Support and Resources](#) webpage where you'll find detailed information about various resources available to you as an SJC student.

We encourage you to take advantage of these free resources to enhance your college experience and ensure your success.

## College Policies and Resources for Current Students

The [Student Handbook](#) provides information on student support, student organizations, and student conduct policies at San Juan College.

The San Juan College catalog outlines the [Academic Policies](#) students need to know.

## Healthy and Safe Practices for Being on Campus

We want a healthy and safe campus for students, faculty, staff, and guests.

### **Contagious diseases and your responsibility:**

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, fever, flu or even the common cold, you should stay home. Do not come to campus if you are feeling sick. Contact your instructor about missing class (and review your instructor's policies on missed or late work). Being sick does not necessarily excuse you from completing your work on time.

### **Safety on campus and your responsibility:**

If you are on campus and experience or witness an emergency, call 9-1-1 first and then the Department of Public Safety at 505-566-3333 (or just 3333 if calling from a campus phone).

When you are on campus, be aware of your surroundings. If you need an escort to your vehicle, call 505-566-4444 (DPS non-emergency line) or 505-215-3091 (officer on duty line).

The College will send information for campus emergencies through SJC AlertAware, email and the webpage. Stay informed and stay safe.

## Inclement Weather Information

Students will receive notification of class delays and cancellations due to inclement weather via the SJC AlertAware and SJC student email. Face-to-face classes will not meet in person; however, students are advised to check with instructors about alternative meeting options, as some may choose to meet via zoom. Hybrid classes will meet as scheduled via zoom. For questions regarding your class delay or cancelation, please contact your instructor.

## Online Course Fee

Online Courses - San Juan College requires all online courses to include some form of assessment to demonstrate the mastery of course objectives. This could include exams, capstone projects, e-portfolios, presentations, final papers or other appropriate assessments. The use of a proctoring platform, plagiarism detection software or other method to ensure that assessments are completed by the enrolled student is required.

A course fee of \$5.00 is assessed for all online courses at San Juan College to cover the cost of the above services. Students who are required to take a proctored exam and choose to use a physical testing center outside the SJC Testing Center or SJC Disability Services will be responsible for the cost of using that center.