

Nonfiction Unit

Spring/Summer

Date	Topic	Readings DUE	Assignments DUE
Th Jul 23 Thursday	Intro to Essay Unit Foundations of CNF	Phillip Lopate, "Introduction" <i>The Art of the Personal Essay</i> Montaigne, "Of a Monstrous Child" Patrick Madden, "Of the Top of My Head" Brian Doyle, "Eating Dirt"	Notebook Check #2 Student Selection 13: Student Selection 14:
T Jul 28 Tuesday	Hermit Crab Insight Intro Researched Essay WE	Dinty W. Moore, "Son of Mr. Green Jeans" (Sellers 298-303) Eula Biss, "The Pain Scale" Desiree Matherly, "Final: Comprehensive, Roughly" Sellers 304-322	WE6: Quotidian Essay Student Selection 15: Student Selection 16:
Th Jul 30 Thursday	Research Memory and Imagination	Facts of the Matter (a bit explicit) Elena Passarello, "He Knows Me As the Blind Man Knows the Cuckoo" OR Amy Leach, "Sail On, My Little Honeybee" Choose ONE from Memory Readings packet (don't just choose the first one or the shortest, but scan to find one that interests you)	
T Aug 04 Tuesday	Revision Intro Personal Index Essay WE "Just Add Water"	Anthony Doerr, "Nine Times (Among Countless Others) I've Thought About the People Who Came Before Us in My Brief Career as a Father" Sellers 359-385	WE7: Researched Essay

		Jericho Parms, "A Chapter on Red"	
Th Aug 06 Thursday	Flash CNF ESSAY WORKSHOP HALF CLASS-- Instructor Conferences	Jane Armstrong, "Injection" Bret Lott, "Genesis" Laurie Lynn Drummond, "Alive" Patricia Park, "Cheekbones"	Read and respond to workshop essays
Th Aug 13 Thursday	Final Exam		WE8: Personal Index Essay Final Notebook Check #3 Outside Reading & Report Writing Community Contribution Creative Philosophy Revisited ERS Workshop Report

Nonfiction Weekly Exercises

WE6: Quotidian Essay: As Phillip Lopate says, "We see operating here a form of inverse boasting: in exchange for lack of stature or power in the world, the personal essayist claims unique access to the small, humble things in life. And this taste for the miniature becomes a strong suit of the form: the ability to turn anything close at hand (Charles Lamb's ears, Virginia Woolf's moth, Samuel Johnson's boarding house) into a grand meditational adventure." For the quotidian essay, meditate upon an often overlooked item in daily life--the quotidian of everyday experience. How does this object/experience lead to a deeper understanding of the human experience?

WE7: Researched Essay: In researched personal essays, writers seek to present information in an interesting way. In *Things That Are*, Amy Leach skillfully incorporates research into her essays and the result is beautiful and captivating. Following Leach's tradition, choose a subject (natural phenomenon, quotidian object, principle/concept, etc.) and research it to better understand its history, nuances, and manifestations. Write an essay in which the complexity or wonder or surprising depth of your chosen subject enhances the meaning of your essay as a whole.

WE8: Personal Index Essay: The Personal Index Essay looks more like a list of data than any kind of personal essay--but upon close reading, it reveals more about the author than explicitly appears in the text. Successful pieces reveal new information through the combining of fragments, offer a poetic turn, and are concise enough to enjoy in under 2 minutes. Your Personal Index should have at least 15 lines, but not more than 25.