

Creative Writing Non-Fiction Spring 2024
Tues. 6-8:45 PM Zoom
Sidney Balman Jr., Writer In Residence/Professor
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Office Hours: M-Th By Appointment

1. Instructional Materials

- i. Travels With Charlie, John Steinbeck
- ii. Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby, selected chapters; Tom Wolfe
- iii. Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Hunter Thompson. Watch movie, 1998 version.
- iv. The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls. Watch Movie.
- v. Seventh Flag; Sid Balman Jr. Extra Credit
- vi. Associated Press Style Book
- vii. Selected assigned material available online

2. Course Overview

- This course is designed to build skills in long-form journalism and non-fiction creative writing, as well as to build an appreciation for writers who have mastered this craft.
- By the end of this course you will develop an appreciation and understand the craft of reporting and writing long-form journalism and non-fiction.

3. Course Primary Learning Objectives

- By the conclusion of this course the student should be proficient in:
 - i. Long-form journalism and non-fiction creative writing.
 - ii. Analysis of long-form journalism and non-fiction creative writing.
 - iii. Literary discussion

4. Student Learning Outcomes

- The successful student will be able to:
 - i. Research, report and write an article at a level that could be published in print or online
 - ii. Understand and discuss the nuances of non-fiction creative writing
 - iii. Understand the principles of ethical journalism
 - iv. Research and analyze complicated issues
 - v. Discuss current news

5. Course Requirements

- Complete reading assignments by the deadline, and discuss in class.

- Writing assignments in class.
- Understand current news and be prepared for occasional news quizzes.
- Prepare writing assignments on deadline.
- Final project: 2-3,000 word article for graduate students. 1,000-word article for undergraduate students.
- Students in this class must abide by appropriate online behavior.

6. Criteria for Grade Evaluation

- Each student will be graded on the basis of adherence to the assignment's guidelines in an effective and comprehensive way. Effort, improvement and class participation are the three most important criteria for grading.
- Grading: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59

7. Students with Disabilities:

- It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility, who is located in FH 112 or call Mary Schwartze at 432.837.8203. All requests for special accommodations must be related in writing to the professor prior to the second week of classes.

8. Academic Honesty:

- "The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials."
– Excerpt from the Student Handbook

9. SRSU Library Services

- The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

10. A copy of this syllabus will be provided and posted on Blackboard.

Course Calendar/Syllabus

- Reading and writing homework will be assigned in class, with a deadline provided by the professor.