Requirements

Weekly assignments, 2 pp. (20%)
These exercises are assigned in response to the reading or to explore an aspect of craft or simply to generate material. These are graded pass/fail. Over the course of the semester you are encouraged to try at least two nonfiction genres (e.g., memoir, profile, history, nature writing, criticism, travel writing, or reportage).

One workshop manuscript, 7-10 pp. (20%)
This may be developed from one or more short assignments, but doesn’t have to be.

Revision of longer manuscript (20%)

Final portfolio (20%)
This includes:
- A brief account of how your writing (and writing process) developed
- Your two best short pieces (the copies with my notes)
- Your revised long piece (the copy with my notes)

Participation (20%)
- All students are expected to arrive on time and participate actively in the workshop process.
  Please come to class prepared to respond to both classmates’ work and the assigned readings.
- You are expected to give written comments to fellow students when their manuscripts are discussed in class. (These can be notes on the manuscript or on a separate sheet.)
- More than one unexcused absence will affect your grade. If you are absent when workshop material is distributed, you are responsible for coming to the next class prepared for discussion.
- You are strongly encouraged to attend the readings by visiting writers throughout the semester at Russell House at 8 p.m. I also encourage you to attend the Q & A with the writers, which will be the same day as the readings at 4:15.

Manuscript Submissions
- Students agree when to present their manuscripts to the workshop. These manuscripts are due one week before they are discussed in class.
- Please submit all manuscripts in “rich text format” (.rtf), double spaced in 12 pt. type. (In Word, choose “Save As,” then click the drop-down menu and choose “rich text format.” This ensures that everyone can open the file.)
- Please e-mail all short manuscripts directly to me, evbrown@wesleyan.edu.
- Upload and download long pieces at the “English 292-evbrown” folder on Wesfiles (http://wesfiles.wesleyan.edu). (Instructions forthcoming.)
- When your long manuscript or revision is due, you have an extra week to turn in your short assignment.
• Late manuscripts (especially your long manuscripts) will affect your grade.

**Conferences**
I will meet with each of you at least once during the semester, regarding your longer manuscript. You may also make an appointment with me at any point.

**Assigned readings**
1. Books you need to buy:
   - Carl Wilson’s *Celine Dion’s Let’s Talk About Love: A Journey to the End of Taste (33 1/3)*

2. All other readings: either photocopies from me or PDFs in the “English 292-evbrown” folder on Wesfiles (www.wesfiles.wesleyan.edu). (Wesfiles instructions forthcoming.)

**Disability Resources**
Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible, in the 1st or 2nd week of the semester, and let us know, so that all concerned can make the appropriate arrangements.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-2332 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

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**Workshop Guidelines**
• Please turn in your manuscripts on time (one week before it will be discussed).

• On the day your manuscript is discussed, be prepared to read it aloud. Sometimes I’ll suggest excerpts.

• The writer should generally remain silent during the discussion of his or her manuscript, unless the group has questions.

• Keep an open mind about what your audience has to say.

• Please stick to constructive criticism when discussing a manuscript. This isn’t just being nice; it’s good practice for how you critique your own writing.

• Start with what works, and why. (Even if you hate a given manuscript, try to find something you like, or even a possibility in the work that interests you.)

• Be specific about what doesn’t work, and why.

• Give clear suggestions for where the piece might be taken next.
Weekly Schedule

(Subject to change.)

Monday, Sept. 2
Cookie Mueller, “My Bio: Notes on an American Childhood”
(personal memoir, passage of time)
Joe Brainard, I Remember (excerpt)
(association, repetition)

Monday, Sept. 9
Terry Castle, “My Heroin Christmas”
Yusef Komunyakaa, “The Blue Machinery of Summer”
(personal memoir)

>>Wednesday, Sept. 11: Yusef Komunyakaa reads 8 pm, Russell House. Q&A 4:15.

Monday, Sept. 16
Wayne Koestenbaum, “My 80s”
Felix Feneon, A Novel in Three Lines (excerpt)
Teju Cole, “Small Fates”
(compression)

Monday, Sept. 23
(nature, landscape writing)

>>Wednesday, Sept 25: Salvatore Scibona and Tonya Foster read 8 pm, Russell House. Q&A 4:15.

Monday, Sept. 30
Andrew Palmer, “Reading House of Holes in Public”
John O’Hara, Appointment in Samarra (excerpt)
David Thorne, “sharpening the knives”
(interior, exterior states)

Monday, October 7
A.S. Hamrah, “A Cottage for Sale”
Justin Wolfe, “The Tetris Effect”
(cultural criticism, social commentary)

>>Wed, October 9: Ben Lerner reads 8 pm, Russell House. Q&A 4:15.
>>Thurs, October 10: Ta-Nehisi Coates reads 8 pm, Russell House. Q&A 4:15.
Monday, October 14
Fall break

Monday, October 21
Carl Wilson, *Celine Dion's Let's Talk About Love: A Journey to the End of Taste (33 1/3)*
(music criticism, reportage, history, personal memoir)

Monday, October 28
John Baldessari, “My Files of Movie Stills”
Ander Monson, “Index for X and the Origin of Fires”
Susan Sontag, “Lexicon for Available Light”
Ambrose Bierce, *Devil's Dictionary* (excerpt)
John R. Stilgoe, *Shallow Water Dictionary* (excerpt)
(taxonomy, index, glossary)

Monday, November 4
James Baldwin, “Notes of a Native Son”
Vivian Gornick, *The Situation and the Story* (selections)
(personal memoir)

Monday, November 11
Robert Smithson, “A Tour of The Monuments of Passaic, New Jersey”
Zoe Leonard, reading TBA
(image and text)


Monday, November 18

>>Tuesday, November 19: Matthilda Bernstein Sycamore reads 8 pm, Russell House. Q&A 4:15.
>>Wednesday, November 20: Fred Moten reads 8 pm, Russell House. Q&A 4:15.

Monday, November 25
Hilary Mantel, “Some Girls Just Want Out” and “Royal Bodies”
(faith, celebrity)

Monday, December 2
Lynda Barry, Ariel Schrag, and Gabrielle Bell, readings TBA
(graphic memoir)