Title: Literary Journalism Studies

Abbreviation and Number: JRNW410

School: Communication and Creative Arts

Department: Journalism and Communication

Credits: 3

Course Sequence: (X) Fall ( ) Spring ( ) Fall and Spring

Hours Per Week: (1) Lecture (2) Seminar ( ) Laboratory ( ) Studio ( ) Kitchen

( ) Other (Specify)

Pre-requisite(s): JRNW310 or permission of Chair/Instructor

Co-requisite(s): JRNP415

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students focus on the study, critique and practice of literary journalism. They conduct in-depth research, gather and organize information to produce a substantial piece of literary journalism.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1) Analyse contemporary and historical literary journalism;
2) Critique a range of literary journalism texts;
3) Evaluate current debates and critical approaches to literary journalism;
4) Assess and apply key literary devices used in literary journalism;
5) Achieve ‘accelerated intimacy’;
6) Adopt an ethnographic research approach to gather information; and
7) Produce a substantial piece of literary journalism.

COURSE CONTENT

I. Introduction to Literary Journalism

A. Definitions and characteristics
B. Wolfe’s four devices:
   i. Scene-by-scene construction
   ii. Realistic dialogue
   iii. Third-person point of view
   iv. Status symbols

II. Development of Literary Journalism from the 19th century

A. Comparisons and critiques
B. Key writings
C. Social and cultural criticism
   Muckrakers and reformers

III. Reportage

A. Eye-witness reporting
B. Personal (first-person) point of view
C. Voice
IV. Research
   D. Achieving accelerated intimacy
   E. The ethnographic approach
   F. Ethical considerations
   G. The psychological interview
   H. The art of watching

ASSESSMENT
Class assignments.................. 30%
Essay................................... 20%
Portfolio.................................. 50%
Total.................................... 100%

REQUIRED TEXT
Course packet.

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS/MATERIALS

JOURNALS
Creative Nonfiction
Journalism Studies
Literary Journalism Studies
Newspaper Research Journal

WEBSITES
inquirer.philly.com/packages/somalia/
www.ialjs.org/
www.banffcentre.ca/programs/program.aspx?id=598
www.newyorker.com/