

Middle East Technical University
Department of Modern Languages

ENG 213 Creative Nonfiction

Instructor: Aylin Graves

E-mail: oktar@metu.edu.tr

In the words of Guthrie, creative nonfiction is “true stories, well told”. In this class, we will study the craft tools of fiction writers and poets to tell true stories, in a compelling way. We will do this by using a variety of forms such as memoir, travel essay and prose poem.

To succeed in this course, you will need a fairly good grasp of English; a love for reading and writing; a few stories brewing in you and waiting to be told; and a soft spot for poetry as we can learn loads about storytelling from poets.

This is a small class, around 15 students. Class meetings will be held on Zoom and ODTU Class, and attendance will be mandatory. There will be reading and writing tasks each week and this will require an average of 2 to 3 hours of study weekly, in addition to the online class. Each student will need a Scribd account. Scribd is an online reading platform, which is free for the first 60 days and around TL25 each month thereafter. It comes with a free Mubi membership as a gift. Mubi is a curated film platform and we will use it in class as we can learn loads about storytelling from film-makers, as well. This class also relies on critique of each other’s writing, so you should be willing to share your pieces and give gentle and constructive feedback to your peers.

You may visit the links below to see a small selection of what we’ve read in previous terms. If you’d like to take the course, please register online and email me for the first Zoom meeting ID and password (oktar@metu.edu.tr). I’ll be delighted to meet you.

Samples of previous course reading:

[All Our Leavings](#) by Jill Talbot

[A Reverie of Trees and Childhood](#) by Andrew Bertaina

[A Sunday Kitchen](#) by Dina Relles

[Eric the Astronomer](#) by Rick White

[Visitors from Abroad](#) by Louise Glück