

Memo regarding English297, Spring 2025

Hello and thank you for considering my course. This introduction to the genre of nonfiction will be HYBRID: lectures will be held on zoom, while sections will all take place face-to-face. I will post a syllabus before the end of December, but for your information, here are the major texts we will be reading. Your TA will also choose one book for section.

All these books were published after 2020, so our focus is very much on current work:

Carl Phillips, *MY TRADE IS MYSTERY* (a short book with several short essays about the craft of writing and the creative life)

Warren Zanes, *DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE* (about the making of Bruce Springsteen's album *NEBRASKA*; it is currently being filmed starring Jeremy White from *THE BEAR*; Zanes narrates it for AUDIBLE very well)

Lucinda Williams, *DON'T TELL ANYBODY THE SECRETS THAT I TOLD YOU* (memoir of the veteran singer-songwriter, candid discussion of her life and work; her father was a poet who started the creative writing graduate program at the University of Arkansas, and he delivered the inaugural poem in 1997 for Bill Clinton's second inauguration. She does a great job with the AUDIBLE version)

Salman Rushdie, *KNIFE* (a brand new memoir from the novelist about his attack in 2021 by a knife-wielding would-be assassin; his survival and recovery. A beautifully written short memoir, which Rushdie reads elegantly on AUDIBLE)