

Midterm Take-Home Exam

Engl 3040 Literary Nonfiction, O'Donnell, Fall 2024, ETSU

Last updated: Monday, October 7, 2024

Due, by email, Friday, October 11 at 5pm

This exam is worth 20% of the class grade.

Exam Instructions

Choose 3 of the 4 following prompts. Then write three short essays in response. Write about 500 words--or 4 to 8 paragraphs--for each essay.

Email me your three essays, as one ms-word document, by Friday, October 11 at 5pm.

Guidelines

- Each of your essays must have a focus or thesis. Give each essay a title that reflects its focus.
- Each of your essays should have an angle or a "take" or one might even say a thesis. Give each essay a title that reflects that angle.

4 Prompts (you choose 3)

1. What is "literary nonfiction"? Define the term by discussing examples we've read in this class.
2. Compare and contrast Cheryl Strayed's *Wild* and Scott McClanahan's *Crapalachia*. Consider elements such as genre, subject matter, writing style, tone, audience, point of view.
3. Analyze Frederick Douglass's 1845 narrative as a work of literary nonfiction. Discuss how the work strikes you, a college student in East Tennessee in 2024.
4. What nonfiction genres (or "subgenres") does Joan Didion deploy in her book, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*? Discuss, with reference to particular titles.

Grading Criteria

An "A" essay will ...

1. ... have a clear, well-defined purpose/ focus/ thesis, and a title that reflects that;
2. ... be well-developed, including dates, author names, titles, other proper nouns, and specific, well-selected quotes from texts;
3. ... be well-organized, with clear section divisions and paragraph breaks;
4. ... be reasonably fluent and readable;
5. ... be well edited.