# Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Special Topics: Creative Writing: Memoir  
**Department:** English/Humanities  
**Curriculum:** Writing  
**Date submitted:** November 21, 2006 (06-115)

**Course Code:** ENG*298  
**Course Type:** L/D  
**Prerequisites:** B- or better in Composition or permission of Department Chair.

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<tr>
<th>Course Descriptors:</th>
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<td>Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.</td>
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<td>Contact Hours:</td>
<td>3</td>
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| Credit Hours: | 3 |
| Developmental: | N |
| Lecture: | 3 |
| Clinical: | 0 |
| Lab: | 0 |
| Studio: | 0 |
| Other: | 0 |
| TOTAL: | 3 |

| Class Maximum: | 25 |
| Semesters Offered: | Fall |

**Ability Based Education (ABE) Statement**  
At Tunxis Community College students are assessed on the knowledge and skills they have learned. The faculty identified the General Education Abilities critical to students’ success in their professional and personal lives. In every class, students are assessed on course abilities, sometimes program abilities, and, in most classes, at least one General Education Ability. Students will receive an evaluation of the degree to which they have demonstrated or not demonstrated that General Education Ability.

**Catalog Course Description:**  
This course provides students with practical experience in writing about the events, places, and people of their own lives in the form of memoir. Through writing assignments and class discussion of readings, students explore the range of memoirs available for use as models and elements such as voice and perspective, tone, plot, characterization, and symbolic and figurative language. Prerequisites: B- or better in Composition or permission of Department Chair.

**Topical Outline:**  
List course content in outline format.

1. Introduction: Types of Personal Non-fiction; What is Memoir?  
2. Techniques in Memoir Writing  
   A. Specific detail  
   B. Framing scenes  
   C. Dialogue elements  
   D. Narrative structures  
   E. Transitions  
   F. Point of view  
   G. Voice
3. Elements of Memoir
   A. Narrator
   B. Character
   C. Setting
   D. Voice
   E. Scene
   F. Dialogue
   G. Point of View
   H. Plot

4. Markets for Memoir
   A. Literary Journals
   B. Newspapers and Magazines
   C. Electronic Media

Outcomes:
Describe measurable skills or knowledge that students should be able to
demonstrate as evidence that they have mastered the course content.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

COURSE:
1. Identify techniques for writing memoir and other forms of personal non-fiction
2. Identify features of effective memoir, both from a reader’s and a writer’s perspective
3. Develop ideas from concept to final copy
4. Shape pieces into a variety of non-fiction rhetorical frameworks
5. Critique the work of others
6. Identify processes for publication of their work

PROGRAM:

GENERAL EDUCATION:

Evaluation:
List how the above outcomes will be assessed.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

Students will be evaluated on several short pieces and an end-of-semester portfolio consisting of a minimum of 20 pages of original work, exercise materials, reflective pieces, and critiques.

Instructional Resources:
List library (e.g. books, journals, on-line resources), technological (e.g. Smartboard, software), and other resources (e.g. equipment, supplies, facilities) required and desired to teach this course.

Required: Current Tunxis Library holdings adequately support the needs of this course.

Desired: Expanded titles in current memoir and memoir-writing techniques.

Textbook(s)
A variety of memoirs and autobiographical non-fiction essays will serve as models.