

HSW121.5 Real Life Writing and Publications

Name of Unit 1 (Unit Code 1)
Real Life Writing and Publications (HSW121.5)

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Level	Unit Coordinator
Diploma	One semester	Introductory	Dr Pete Court

Core or elective unit

Indicate if the unit is a

- core unit
- elective unit
- other (please specify below):

Unit weighting

Using the table below, indicate the credit point weighting of this unit and the credit point total for the course of study (for example, 10 credit points for the unit and 320 credit points for the course of study).

Unit credit points	Total course credit points
6 credit points	48 credit points

Student workload

Using the table below, indicate the expected student workload per week for this unit.

No. timetabled hours per week	No. personal study hours per week	Total workload hours per week
3	7	10

SECTION 2 – ACADEMIC DETAILS

Brief description of the content of the unit

With a focus on the art of telling personal stories creatively, students identify topics of interest and learn the techniques for writing effective creative nonfiction and putting these into practice in their own compositions. Students study a range of creative nonfiction publications to enhance their appreciation of the potential markets as well as the range and technical requirements of the form. Students apply these principles of professional composition through in-class exercises, and by developing a number of personal works that explore such styles as journalistic, travel writing, contemplative, humorous, memoir and topics of interest.

Learning outcomes for the unit

- 1) Explain what defines real life writing (creative nonfiction) as a literary form
- 2) Identify potential markets relevant to their own real life writing and publication goals
- 3) Discuss a range of notable nonfiction writers, past and present, in terms of literary technique, influence and purpose
- 4) Work collaboratively and independently to evaluate and improve their own life writing by applying principles of effective composition and communication

Assessment tasks

Type	When assessed - year, session, week	Weighting	Learning outcomes assessed
Participation Participation in tutorial discussion, completion of writing exercises, response to weekly readings and presentation of drafts in scheduled workshops (at least twice per semester)	Periodically and on-going	20%	1,3 & 4
Market Pitch Identify 2-3 potential publications for your own real life writing. Research their content and submission guidelines and prepare a short 10 min presentation demonstrating their suitability. (Equiv. 1000 words)	Weeks 7-8	30%	2 & 4
Passion Project Research and write two short pieces or one longer piece suitable for the market identified in your Market Pitch. (3000 words total)	Week 14	50%	2 & 4

2.1 Prescribed and recommended readings

Provide below, in formal reference format, a list of the prescribed and recommended readings for the unit.

Required Text

Miller, B., & Paola, S. (2019). *Tell it slant: Writing and shaping creative nonfiction* (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill.

Recommended texts

Gutkind, L. (2009). *Keep it real: Everything you need to know about researching and writing creative nonfiction*. Norton.

Hart, J. (2020). *Storycraft: The complete guide to writing narrative nonfiction* (2nd ed.). University of Chicago Press.

Lamott, A. (1995). *Bird by bird: Some instructions of writing and life*. Anchor Books.

Lopate, P. (Ed.). (1995). *The art of the personal essay: An anthology from the classical era to the present*. Anchor Books

Lopate, P. (2013). *To show and tell: The craft of literary nonfiction*. Free Press.

Miller, B. (2019). *Tell it slant: Creating, refining, and publishing creative nonfiction* (3rd ed.). McGraw Hill.

Moore, D. (2010). *Crafting the personal essay: A guide for writing and publishing creative nonfiction*. Writers' Digest Books.

Smith, Z. (2010). *Changing my mind: Occasional essays*. Penguin.

Tredinnick, M. (2006). *The little red writing book*. University of NSW Press.

Worthing, M. (2020). *The sacred life of words: A guide for Christian writers*. Morning Star Publishing.

Zinsser, W. (Ed.). (1998). *Inventing the truth: The art and craft of memoir*. Mariner Books.

Zinsser, W. (Ed.). (2013). *Going on faith: Writing as spiritual quest*. Wipf & Stock.