

“Literary Nonfiction”



INGL 6995-086 (Spring 2019,
T-Th 2:00-3:15 Chardón 323)

Dr. Gregory Stephens

This seminar builds on work that Dr. Stephens has done over the past four years in Creative Nonfiction and Creative Writing, in order to develop a graduate-level theory and practice of literary nonfiction as the *Fourth Genre* (in addition to fiction, drama, and poetry).

A three-part approach (*genre, pedagogy, & practice*) serves three types of students: those who study literary genres; those building a repertoire of methods as teachers; and aspiring writers, including those who want to plan and implement the “Creative Option” of the M.A.

The readings trace a historical sweep of the *fourth genre*: from 19th century authors such as Henry David Thoreau, to early 20th century pioneers such as Virginia Wolfe and George Orwell, to late 20th century innovators like Joan Didion, to 21st century genre-bending pioneers.



We will emphasize learning craft skills for developing your own publishable literary nonfiction, as well as using theoretical tools to critically analyze the literary nonfiction genre. Students will also have the opportunity to develop lesson plans for integrating literary nonfiction materials into their own classrooms, from First Year English and beyond.