

NYU Writers: Non Fiction Craft Seminar: 2022

Foundations of Non-Fiction

Instructor: Hari Kunzru

Course Description:

In this course we will explore the elements of non fiction writing: how to observe the world, how to keep notes, how to build character, how to describe people, places and things. We will pay close attention to the way literary style creates different emotions and effects, and begin to understand the important concept of 'voice'. Throughout we will pay close attention the ethical challenges faced by non-fiction writers, as well as the technical challenges.

Reading List:

All reading will be provided as pdfs. We'll take a look at writing of all kinds, from 8th century Japan to BuzzFeed articles. We'll read closely and widely. In individual discussion during office hours, participants will develop individually-tailored programs of reading for the future, so they can carry on the journey they started in class.

How the class will work:

You must come prepared to participate in discussion, and be ready to do written exercises. There will usually be written assignments for presentation in the next class. Be aware that attendance counts significantly towards your final grade. If you don't show up, you won't do well, however brilliant you are when you're present. It should go without saying that any kind of plagiarism will not be tolerated.