Note: Because students are asked to generate so much writing, and read and thoughtfully critique so much of their peers’ writing, there is no formal reading list. Any additional reading will be in response to class conversations, and provided by JSF. We will discuss each of the below assignments at length before setting off to write them.

CLASS 1 – Introduction to the class, and overview of creative non-fiction.
ASSIGNMENT 1 – MICRO-AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

CLASS 2 – Workshop first assignment, and spend remaining time discussing ideas and issues pertaining to the second assignment.
ASSIGNMENT 2 – MICRO-BIOGRAPHY. We will pair up and create “micro-biographies” (500 words or fewer) of our peers. These must be the product of at least one extensive interview with the subject, one interview with someone in the subject’s life, and additional research.

CLASS 3 – Workshop second assignment, and spend remaining time discussing ideas and issues pertaining to the third assignment.
ASSIGNMENT 3 – RESEARCH. We will explore the ways of gathering information for a piece of writing, from mining one’s memories, to having conversations and conducting interviews, to culling information from books and other recourses.

CLASS 4 - Workshop third assignment, and spend remaining time discussing ideas and issues pertaining to the fourth assignment.
ASSIGNMENT 4 – PARTICIPATORY JOURNALISM. The intersection of the first three assignments. Make yourself a character in a situation that you report on.

CLASS 5 - Workshop fourth assignment, and spend remaining time discussing ideas and issues pertaining to the fifth assignment.
ASSIGNMENT 5 – ARGUMENT. Construct an argument based on evidence, facts, and reason. Give thought to how tone and use rhetorical appeals can persuade a reader.

CLASS 6 - Workshop fifth assignment, and spend remaining time discussing ideas and issues pertaining to the sixth assignment.
ASSIGNMENT 6 – SCENE/PLACE. You will be given an address in Paris, and must record a scene that you witness taking place there. Interview participants as necessary and give background---historical and contextual---about the site.

CLASS 7 - Workshop sixth assignment, and spend remaining time discussing ideas and issues pertaining to the seventh assignment.
ASSIGNMENT 7 – MAKE THE STRANGE KNOWN.

CLASS 8 - Discuss final assignment.