Stephen F. Austin State University
English 462, Advanced Nonfiction

**Professor:** Andrew Brininstool  
**Office:** LAN-256  
**Office Hours:** Mon. 3-6pm; Tue. 3:15-5:30  
**Email:** brininsta@sfasu.edu

**Section Number:** 090  
**Classroom:** Ferguson 177  
**Meeting:** M 6-8:30  
**Phone:** 936 468-5659

**Description:**  
Classroom analysis and discussion of student writing.  
Prerequisites: Twelve hours of English including ENG 261 and 362 or graduate standing or consent of instructor.

**Specifics:**  
We’ll examine the strange relationships between fact and art, narrative and reportage, the self and the broader world.

**Texts:**  
*The White Album* by Joan Didion  
*Pulphead* by John Jeremiah Sullivan

**Assignments and Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays (2)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Responses</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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**Attendance** is essential for a workshop to function. I will allow you **three (3)** absences. Your fourth absence will result in a reduction of one full letter grade, to be applied to your final grade. Your **fifth absence** will result in a final grade of Failure (F). Further, without attendance, you cannot participate in class. Absences will also impact your participation grade: each absence, excused by me or not, will result in a deduction of two points.
**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

1. The student will demonstrate close reading skills and recognize strategies used by professional creative writers.

2. The student will employ techniques and strategies for crafting carefully composed, competent creative work in a variety of genres (fiction, poetry, literary non-fiction).

3. The student will articulate useful, critical editorial advice for peer writers.

4. The student will demonstrate strategic revision on completed creative work.

5. The student will compose and sustain a complete, polished manuscript of substance in the focus-genre.
Tentative Class Schedule

Tue. Jan 19 – Tue. Feb. 9

Block One
Didion and the Personal / Historical

Texts

Exercise One Due Feb. 2
The Abstract and the Concrete (via email)

Exercise Two Due Feb. 9
The Personal Within a Historical Event

Tue. Feb. 16 – Tue. March 8

Block Two
J.J. Sullivan

Workshop Begins

March 12 – 18

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Tue. March 22 – Tue. April 5

Workshop Continues

Tue. April 12 – Tue. May 3

Final Assignment
A portfolio will be due Monday, May 9 at 8:00pm.