WS 307-4  Telling Women’s Work: Writing Creative Non-Fiction as Oral History

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is a creative writing course in which students will develop oral history skills in order to write creative non-fiction stories about women’s work. Oral history is the art of close, personal interview that sees the personal voice of those who were there, often the so-called “ordinary” people, as a valued historical resource. Creative non-fiction (also called “literary journalism”) uses a writer’s skill with language, to tell true stories. Two assignments will lead toward a third, major assignment to find, research, and interview a senior woman about her life’s work. Class time will include lecture, discussion and workshopping (providing constructive responses to each other’s work, both in writing and orally in class.)

REQUIRED TEXTS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE
In addition to weekly readings and discussion, there will be two short assignments leading to a third major assignment to find, research, do an oral history interview of a senior woman about her work and to write this up as a creative non-fiction story. All work must be submitted on time. Regular class attendance and participation are essential.

| Assignment #1: | 15% |
| Assignment #2: | 15% |
| Assignment #3: | 50% |
| Attendance and participation: | 20% |

PREREQUISITES
Six Credits in Women’s Studies including WS 101 and/or 102

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT