

Center for the Writing Arts
Course Application

All applications are confidential and processed according to the University's Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The course to which you are applying will be offered only in Winter Quarter 2009:

303-0 The Art of Nonfiction: Telling Stories
Alex Kotlowitz Mondays 2:00-5:00 pm

Name: _____ Campus Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

School and Class Year: _____

Area(s) of General Writing Interest (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, playwriting): _____

Major: _____ GPA: _____

Have you previously applied to a CWA course? Did you enroll? Please list the course(s) here: _____

Writing Prerequisite: One writing-intensive course taken at Northwestern. This course must have an announced emphasis on writing (i.e. courses in writing poetry, fiction, or essay; a basic writing course in Medill; a screenwriting course in SoC). Please list the course(s) here: _____

Writing Sample: Please attach a nonfiction writing sample 5-10 pages long. Acceptable examples include expository essays, journalism articles, or narrative prose.

Personal Essay: Please attach an essay, no longer than 400 words, describing (a) what you hope to learn by attending this class, and (b) what you will bring as a participant to the class.

Applications can be found online at: www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/

Please return completed application, writing sample and essay to:

Center for the Writing Arts
Crowe Hall 5-155, Evanston Campus
OR
email to words@northwestern.edu

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008 by 5PM

ACCEPTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY E-MAIL

Survey question (please circle one)

How did you learn about this class?

- a) Ad in Daily Northwestern
- b) Positive feedback from a student who already took one of our classes.
- c) Recommendation from your advisor.
- d) Other

Writing 303

“THE ART OF NONFICTION: TELLING STORIES”

with Visiting Writer in Residence Winter Quarter 2009

ALEX KOTLOWITZ

Mondays 2:00-5:00 pm



Alex Kotlowitz, CWA Writer in Residence for Winter Quarter 2009. Award-winning author of *There Are No Children Here*, *The Other Side of the River*, and *Never a City So Real*. Contributor to *The New York Times Magazine* and public radio's *This American Life*. Alex Kotlowitz is renowned for his narratives of particular individuals whose concrete life experiences illuminate broad aspects of our nation's social and political landscape.

ALEX KOTLOWITZ

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is open by application only to undergraduates.

This course will-through both reading and writing-explore the art of what is often called literary journalism, narrative nonfiction, or what John McPhee calls "the literature of fact." The best of nonfiction narrative wields a fierce power, poking and prodding our preconceptions of the world, pushing us to look at ourselves and others through a different prism. What makes for a compelling story? (What tools might we borrow from fiction?) Why employ the use of narrative? How does it help form our view of people and events? We'll explore the craft of reporting and research which borrows from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, history and sociology - and work with rigor and discipline on the art of good writing. We'll read nonfiction narratives-both book and magazine articles-on a host of subjects, ranging from war and poverty to the environment and sports. We'll work in this class as a professional writer might, from draft to draft. There will be regular writing assignments, and students will be asked to craft a longer narrative on a subject of interest to them. The course will be run as a seminar, so there will be an emphasis on critical class discussion.

Here are some of the CTEC comments after taking his class –

“I’m a better writer after these ten weeks.”

“The opportunity to work with such a pro is a unique and gratifying experience.”

“I feel lucky to have taken this class. It pushed me to get off campus and meet interesting people.”

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