

## Center for the Writing Arts Information Form

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

The course will be offered only in Winter Quarter 2017. This information is for the instructor, Alex Kotlowitz. Fifteen students will be chosen by the instructor to attend and permission numbers will be assigned for registration:

**303-0            The Art of Nonfiction: Telling Stories**  
**Alex Kotlowitz        Mondays 2:00-4:50 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Essay**: Please attach an essay, 200- 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.

**Writing 303 form can be found online at:**  
**[www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/](http://www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/)**

Please return completed information form and personal essay to:  
**[words@northwestern.edu](mailto:words@northwestern.edu)**

**Writing 303 FORM DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016**  
**by 10 am**

**ACCEPTED STUDENTS 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 Writer in Residence Winter Quarter 2017

**ALEX KOTLOWITZ**

Mondays 2:00-4:50 pm



**Alex Kotlowitz**, CWA Writer in Residence for Winter Quarter 2017. 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.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** There is such beauty and power in storytelling. The best of nonfiction narrative pokes and prods our preconceptions, pushing us to imagine the world through the eyes of others. What makes for a compelling story? How can we make nonfiction read like literature? How do we tell true stories that are both intimate and vivid? 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 (and listen to some radio) – 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 their choosing. The course will be run as a seminar so there will be an emphasis on critical class discussion – and workshopping your writing.

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

*\*\* I loved this course! Alex pushed me to think critically and express my thoughts concisely .... he challenged me to understand what makes writing "good." ... He's dedicated to helping his students become good writers.*

*\*\* This is going to go down as one of my favorite/most memorable class that I have taken at NU.*

*\*\* I really felt my writing grew in his class and I believe I grew as a person as well.*

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