

# JOURNALISM AS LITERATURE

**Spring 2021**  
JOUR-GA 1023.002  
Tues., 1:00-4:00pm  
ONLINE

**Professor**  
Salman Rushdie  
Office: 622

Office Hours: Tues., 4.30-6pm

## **Course Overview**

One of the most interesting developments of the past half-century or so has been the rise of a breed of journalists-in-novelists'-clothing who use the techniques of literature to tell true stories. But is blurring the boundary between fiction and nonfiction always a good thing? Does it make several of the most famous works of this type unreliable? We will look at some of the key texts of this new, or newish, form, from Norman Mailer and Gay Talese by way of Joan Didion and Ryszard Kapuscinski to Larissa MacFarquhar and the 2015 Nobel Laureate Svetlana Alexievich.

The format of the class is an open discussion, but I ask that each of you come to every session prepared to raise one subject based on the reading you'd like to talk about with the class.

## **Writing**

Two papers are required for this course. One will be a response to the readings before Spring Break, and the second paper will be a response to the readings after Spring Break. In each, you will be expected to analyze the texts, considering the questions in the above Course Overview.

## **Schedule of Classes**

Please note that this schedule is subject to change

Week 1

Tues. Jan. 29            GAY TALESE, THE GAY TALESE READER

Week 2

Tues. Feb. 5            LILLIAN ROSS, PICTURE

Week 3

Tues. Feb. 12           NORMAN MAILER, THE ARMIES OF THE NIGHT

Week 4

Tues. Feb. 19           TRUMAN CAPOTE, IN COLD BLOOD

Week 5

Tues. Feb. 26           RYSZARD KAPUSCINSKI, THE EMPEROR

Week 6 Tues. Mar. 5	MICHAEL HERR, DISPATCHES
Week 7 Tues. Mar. 12	KATHERINE BOO, BEHIND THE BEAUTIFUL FOREVERS
Week 8 Tues. Mar. 19	SPRING BREAK
Week 9 Tues. Mar. 26	SUKETU MEHTA, MAXIMUM CITY
Week 10 Tues. April 2	SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH, VOICES FROM CHERNOBYL
Week 11 Tues. April 9	JANINE DI GIOVANNI, THE MORNING THEY CAME FOR US
Week 12 Tues. April 16	ISABEL WILKERSON, THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS
Week 13 Tues. April 23	JOHN EDGAR WIDEMAN, WRITING TO SAVE A LIFE
Week 14 Tues. April 30	W. CALEB MCDANIEL, SWEET TASTE OF LIBERTY
Week 15 Tues. May 7	DANIEL DEFOE, JOURNAL OF THE PLAGUE YEAR

### **Accommodations**

Students with disabilities that necessitate accommodations should contact and register with New York University's Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at [212-998-4980](tel:212-998-4980) or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu). Information about the Moses Center can be found at [www.nyu.edu/csd](http://www.nyu.edu/csd). The Moses Center is located at 726 Broadway on the 2nd floor.

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

The Institute is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. The Institute embraces a notion of intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions.