First Year Seminar/2931: Writing & Therapy
Fall 2014/12:30 to 1:45 MW
Fine Arts Center 36

Instructor: Nancy Reincke
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Office hours: 2:00 to 3:30 MW; 10:00 to 11:00 TR and by appt
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Goals of First Year Seminars:
1. Help to establish a sense of community among members.
2. Encourage active participation by students in the class.
3. Help integrate first-year students into an academic culture.
4. Foster methods of analysis and creativity that enhance first-year student
   academic development, and help students make the transition from the concrete
   and dualistic approaches of younger learning levels to the analytical and critical
   thinking skills necessary for college.
5. Sharpen students’ writing and verbal communication skills.
6. Focus on a topic, approach, or issue.
7. Focus on ways of knowing and learning, as well as on content.

Our topic is writing and therapy. This focus will allow us to explore different
functions and facets of writing; it will also allow us to read about and discuss a
variety of human experiences.

Texts
John Callahan, *Don’t Worry, He Won’t Get Far on Foot* (1989)
Selected readings (handouts or posted on Blackboard)

Books are available from University Bookstore. Always bring the text under
discussion to class as we will have occasion to refer to it as we talk or write. Keep all
of the writing you do in this class until the end of the semester as I may ask you to
hand it in again for review as I determine midterm and final grades. Unless you
explicitly request otherwise, all of your writing may be shared with classmates.

Format
This is a discussion and activity course. Requirements include small group
work, reading assignments, frequent short writing assignments, several longer
papers (four to five pages), and a final exam. I may also require you to attend
campus events if they are relevant to our topic.

I will make appropriate accomodations for students with disabilities. Please
see me if you require special accomodations.
Note: this schedule gives you a rough idea of what to expect in the first seven weeks, but it is subject to change based on the needs and desires that arise as we progress through the semester.

**Week One**
- Wednesday, August 27th: David Sedaris, "I Like Guys."

**Week Two**
- Monday, September 1st: Labor Day.
- Wednesday, September 3rd: Continue discussion of "I Like Guys."

**Week Three**
- Sunday, September 7th: School Trauma paper due by 6:00 pm.
- Monday, September 8th: Discuss student papers.
- Wednesday, September 10th: John Callahan, *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot*, Chapters 1 through 3.

**Week Four**
- Monday, September 15th: Callahan, *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot*, Chapters 4 through 7.
- Wednesday, September 17th: Callahan, *Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot*, Chapters 8 through 11.

**Week Five**
- Wednesday, September 24th: Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*, Chapters 1 through 3.

**Week Six**
- Wednesday, October 1st: Bechdel, *Fun Home*, Chapters 6 and 7 (end).

**Week Seven**
- Monday, October 6th: Handout of selected readings.
- Wednesday, October 8th: Paper due.