

Week 1: Hi!

(8/22): **Introduction:** In-class reading from Edward Titchener

(8/24): **Build Your Own Definition (1)—What's Important about Feeling, What's Hard about Caring:** Leslie Jamison, "The Empathy Exams" **and** David Foster Wallace, "Kenyon Commencement Speech"

Week 2: The Contemporary Context: Defenders and Detractors, The Politics of Empathy

(8/29): **Build Your Own Definition (2)—Does Empathy Have a Politics?** Carolyn Pedwell, "Economies of Empathy: Obama, Neoliberalism, and Social Justice"

(8/31): Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt, "The Coddling of the American Mind," *The Atlantic* **and** "Generation PTSD: What the 'trigger warning' Debate is Really About," *The New Republic* **and** University of Chicago letter to incoming class of 2020

Week 3: Empathy, Writing, and the Contemporary Essay

(9/5): Kent Russell, "We Are Entering the Age of Alzheimer's," *The New Republic* **and** "American Juggalo," *n+1*

(9/7): Zadie Smith, "Fences: A Brexit Diary," *New York Review of Books* **and** Alison Grace Myers, "Perfume Poured Out," *Issue*

Week 4: Didion and Detachment

(9/12): **(How to Talk about Style/Voice:** Meg Freitag, "When Edith Doesn't Have a Body" **and** "The Edith Poems," *Narrative Magazine* **and** Tao Lin, "i will learn how to love a person and then i will teach you and then we will know")

(9/14): Joan Didion, "Slouching Towards Bethlehem"

Week 5: The New Journalism

(9/19): Gay Talese, "The Voyeur's Motel," *New Yorker*

(9/21): Joan Didion, "The White Album"

Week 6: Sorry, more Didion

(9/27): Joan Didion, *Year of Magical Thinking* (selections)

(9/29): Joan Didion, *Year of Magical Thinking* (selections)

Week 7: Representing Pain

(10/4): Anne Carson, *The Glass Essay*

(10/6): *Bojack Horseman*, "Fish Out of Water" (Watch in Class) **and** David Foster Wallace, "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again," *Harper's*

Week 8: Short Term 12

(10/11): **Fall Break**

(10/13): **Film: Short Term 12**

Week 9: Female Pain a Special Case?

(10/18): Leslie Jamison, "'In Defense of Saccharine'"

(10/20): Leslie Jamison, "'In Defense of Saccharine'"

Week 10: David Foster Wallace/Formal Experimentation

(10/25): David Foster Wallace, "Octet,"

(10/27): Muriel Rukeyser, "Elegies" **and** "We Came for Games" **and** Rowena Kennedy-Epstein, "Recovering Muriel Rukeyser's *Savage Coast*"

Week 11

(11/1): Workshop on library/humanities research

Week 12: Empathy impossible (1)

(11/8): **Election Day**: Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton: Original Broadway Cast Recording*

(11/10): Trump won.

Week 13: Empathy impossible (2)

(11/15): Leslie Jamison, "Pain Tours" and "Fog Count"

(11/17): Leslie Jamison, "Grand Unified Theory of Female Pain," *VQR* and "Quiet Men" and "Devil's Bait"

Week 14: Thanksgiving

(11/22): Guest speaker: Nursing and Empathy

(11/24): **Thanksgiving**

Week 15: Last Thoughts

(11/29): In-class work on essay 5

(12/1): Bob Dylan, "Last Thoughts on Woody Guthrie," Jason Molina, "Blue Chicago Moon," "It's Easier Now," "Nashville Moon," "Hold on Magnolia," Meg Freitag, "Reading the News on my iPhone during a Snowstorm"

(TBD): **Final Essay due**