

Writing.2: Memoir Writing—Discovering Who You Are on Paper

Faculty: Charlie Green, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Literatures in English, author of just-released novel *The Shah of Texas*

Week Two: July 13 – 19, 2025

Schedule: Monday - Friday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:30, except Wednesday afternoon.

Location: Kennedy Hall, Room 105

Advance Assignment

If you are able, in advance of your arrival at CAU Summer,

please email **Charlie Green** crg95@cornell.edu

up to 1,500 words, (typed, double spaced) of your own memoir that you are trying to write.

(If you don't have anything already in progress, no worries! You *can* start when you arrive but if you do have something already in progress, then we can use it for our Workshop activity.)

Whatever state it's in is fine—from first, rough draft, to polished piece.

See Charlie's Welcome Video for more details!

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Resource/Reading List

Schedule of readings, to be read before the class meetings:

Monday: Mary Karr, “The Past’s Vigor” & “The Truth Contract Twixt Writer and Reader” (*The Art of Memoir*, pages 1–26); Patricia Hampl, “Other People’s Secrets” (*The Contemporary American Essay*, pages 289–306)

Tuesday: Mary Karr, “Why Not to Write a Memoir” and “A Voice Conjures the Human Who Utters It” (*The Art of Memoir*, 27–54); Floyd Skloot, “Gray Area” (*The Contemporary American Essay*, pages 569–582)

Wednesday: Mary Karr, “Sacred Carnality” and “How to Choose a Detail” (*The Art of Memoir*, pages 71–80); Thomas Lynch, “Bodies in Motion and at Rest” (*The Contemporary American Essay*, pages 423–427)

Thursday: Mary Karr, “Interiority and Inner Enemy” (*The Art of Memoir*, pages 91–100); Alexander Chee, “Girl” (*The Contemporary American Essay*, pages 97–108)

Friday: No Readings