Narrative Nonfiction Residency Guide

July 31 to Aug. 9, 2015
### MFA Residency Master Schedule
#### Summer 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Friday, July 31</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Check-in at Hotel Indigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Welcome dinner and celebration at Rialto Room, Hotel Indigo (Dress is business casual)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Unless otherwise noted, all room numbers below are in the Journalism Building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Saturday, Aug 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Narrative Nonfiction</strong></th>
<th><strong>Screenwriting</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am-10:00am</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-12:15pm</td>
<td>Craft Seminar: The Literature of Fact With Melissa Fay Greene Room 409</td>
<td>10:00-11:00am Residency Orientation With Nate Kohn and Kelly Meyer Room 308</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:00-12:15pm Introductions and Intentions Session With Nate Kohn and Christine Swanson Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm-5:30pm</td>
<td>2:00-3:15pm Introductions and Intentions Session Room 409</td>
<td>2:00-3:15pm Seminar: Intellectual Property and Copyright Law With Michell Davis, Esq. Room 308</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3:30-5:30pm Student Orientation &amp; Registration Room 409</td>
<td>3:30-5:30pm Writing Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner break</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>Literary Reading &amp; Discussion: Melissa Fay Greene Room 412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Narrative Nonfiction</td>
<td>Screenwriting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug 2</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
<td>Discussion: The Attorney’s Role in Independent Film Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00am-10:00am</td>
<td></td>
<td>With Entertainment Attorney Michell Davis, Esq, Nate Kohn, Christine Swanson</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-12:15pm</td>
<td>Craft Seminar: What Is Narrative? With Valerie Boyd, Moni Basu, John T. Edge</td>
<td>Class Meetings With Ramin Bahrani</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Room 409</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and Ramin Bahrani (Room 308), Christine Swanson (Room 411)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:00pm Panel Discussion With Core Faculty &amp; Guests</td>
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<td>Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm-5:15pm</td>
<td>Craft Seminar: Writing Place in the American South With John T. Edge</td>
<td>Workshop: Writing Group Strategies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>With Kelly Meyer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peyton Anderson Forum (PAF)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Holly Sorensen: Writing TV: The Writers’ Room and Other Mysteries</td>
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<td>Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner break</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>Literary Reading: Harriet Washington, John T. Edge</td>
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<td>Room 412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug 3</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00am-10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Craft Seminar: The Contrarian’s Guide to Authority—and Charm, Part 1</td>
<td>10:00-11:00am Workshop: Writing Group Strategies With Kelly Meyer</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Peyton Anderson Forum (PAF)</td>
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<td>Holly Sorensen: Writing TV: The Writers’ Room and Other Mysteries</td>
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<td>Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>The Contrarian’s Guide to Authority—and Charm, Part 2 With Harriet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Washington Room 409</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00-4:00pm Class Meetings With Ramin Bahrani (Room 308), Christine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Swanson (Room 411)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:00pm Panel: Paul and Tammy Garnes Lead Discussion on the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Producer and the Screenplay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner break</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Writing the Tough Stuff: Moni Basu &amp; Harriet Washington in</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conversation Peyton Anderson Forum (PAF)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dinner break continues</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>Film Screening &amp; Discussion With Producer Paul Garnes: <em>Selma</em> Room</td>
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<td>412</td>
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**Tuesday, Aug 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Narrative Nonfiction</th>
<th>Screenwriting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am-10:00am</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meditation, Exercise,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Journaling, Self-Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-12pm</td>
<td>Historical Research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Day: What’s Past Is</td>
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<td>Prologue With</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Janice Hume, Part 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Room 412</td>
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<tr>
<td>12pm-1:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm-5:15pm</td>
<td>Historical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With Janice Hume,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Part 2 Room 412</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00-5:15pm</td>
<td>Tour of Special</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Collections Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm-7:15pm</td>
<td>Happy Hour With</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grady College Dean</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charles Davis</td>
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<td>PAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 7:30pm-9:30pm      | Film Screening: *The Spectacular Now*  
Skype With Director James Ponsoldt  
Room 412 |

**Wednesday, Aug 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am-10:00am</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 10:00am-12:15pm    | 10:00-11:30am  
Letter to Self Session  
Room 409  
11:30-12:15pm  
Writing & Reflection Time  
10:00-12:15  
Film Screening: *Beyond the Lights*  
JOUR 308 |
| 12:15pm-2:00pm     | Lunch break                                                        |
| 2:00pm-5:15pm      | Craft Seminar: Reporting for Narrative With Moni Basu  
Room 409  
2:00-4:00pm  
Class Meetings With Ramin Bahrani (Room 308), Christine Swanson (Room 411)  
4:00-5:00pm  
Discussion/Panel With *Beyond the Lights* Writer/Director Gina Prince Bythewood  
Room 308 |
| 5:15pm-7:30pm      | Dinner break                                                       |
| 7:30pm-9:30pm      | Film Screening: *Goodbye Solo*  
Conversation With Director Ramin Bahrani  
Room 412 |

**Thursday, Aug 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am-10:00am</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 10:00am-12:30pm    | Craft Seminar: Declaring the Story With Philip Gerard  
Room 409  
10:00-11:00am  
Writing Workshop With Faculty Drop-Ins  
PAF  
11:00am-12:30pm  
Writing Time |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm-5:15pm</td>
<td>Time for Writing, Reflection &amp; Rejuvenation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-4:00pm</td>
<td>Class Meetings With Ramin Bahrani (Room 308), Christine Swanson (Room 411)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00-5:15pm</td>
<td>Discussion/Panel With Core Faculty Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>Literary Reading: Philip Gerard, Moni Basu &amp; Valerie Boyd Room 412</td>
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**Friday, Aug 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Narrative Nonfiction</th>
<th>Screenwriting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am-10:00am</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am-12:15pm</td>
<td>Narrative Practicalities: Discussion With Philip Gerard &amp; Nonfiction Core Faculty Room 409</td>
<td>10:00-11:00am Writing Workshop With Faculty Drop-Ins PAF</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-12:00pm</td>
<td>Writing Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-2:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm-5:15pm</td>
<td>2:00-3:30pm Mentor Matchup Session Room 409</td>
<td>2:00-4:00pm Class Meetings With Ramin Bahrani (Room 308), Christine Swanson (Room 411)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-5:15pm</td>
<td>3:30-5:15pm Time for Writing, Reflection</td>
<td>4:00-5:00pm Pitching With Jennifer Smith Room 308</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>Dinner break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm-9:30pm</td>
<td>Free Night! Explore Athens!</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Narrative Nonfiction</td>
<td>Screenwriting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug 8</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
<td>10:00-11:00am Writing Workshop With Faculty Drop-Ins PAF</td>
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<td>Cohort Meetings With Mentors Locations TBA</td>
<td>11:00-12:00pm Writing Time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Individual Meetings With Mentors, Writing Time</td>
<td>4:00-5:00pm Pitch Session Room 308</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dinner break</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Film Screening: <em>Innocence</em></td>
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<td>Skype With Paul Cox Room 412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Aug 9</td>
<td>Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care</td>
<td>10:00-11:00am Final Read-Around/Sharing Room 308</td>
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<td>Individual Student-Mentor Meetings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Closing Circle Farewell PAF</td>
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DAILY SCHEDULE FOR UGA MFA RESIDENCY
NARRATIVE NONFICTION

FRIDAY, JULY 31
6 PM: Welcome Reception for All Students, Staff, Faculty and Guests
Rialto Room, Hotel Indigo

SATURDAY, AUG. 1
7-10: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care
10-12:15: Melissa Fay Greene Craft Seminar: The Literature of Fact
12:15-2: Lunch
2-3:15: Introductions & Intentions Session With Core Faculty (Moni Basu, Valerie Boyd & John T. Edge)
3:30-5:30: Student Orientation & Registration led by Kelly Meyer
5:30-7:30: Dinner
7:30: Melissa Fay Greene Reading & Discussion

SUNDAY, AUG. 2
7-10: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care
10-12:15: What Is Narrative?: Seminar & Discussion led by Valerie, with huge input from Moni & John T.
12:15-2: Lunch break
2-5:15: John T. Edge Craft Seminar: Writing Place in the American South
5:15-7:30: Dinner, free time
7:30: Reading: Harriet Washington, John T. Edge
**MONDAY, AUG. 3**
7-10 AM: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care


12:30-2: Lunch break

2-5: Harriet Washington Craft Seminar, Part 2

5-6:15: Dinner

6:15-7:30: Writing the Tough Stuff: Moni Basu & Harriet Washington in Conversation

7:30: Film Screening: *Selma*

**TUESDAY, AUG. 4**
7-10 AM: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care

10-12: Historical Research Day: What’s Past Is Prologue With Janice Hume, Part 1

12-1:30: Lunch break

1:30-3:30: Historical Research Day, Part 2

3:30-3:45: Break, then go to Special Collections Library

4-5:15: Tour of the Special Collections Vault

5:30-7:15: Happy Hour With Grady College Dean Charles Davis

7:30: Film Screening: *The Spectacular Now*

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5**
7-10 AM: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care

10-11:30: Letter to Self/Vision of Greatness Session With Core Faculty

11:30-2: Free time & Lunch

2-5:15: Moni Basu Craft Seminar: Reporting for Narrative

5:15-7:30: Dinner

7:30: Film Screening: *Goodbye Solo* & Conversation With Director Ramin Bahrani
THURSDAY, AUG. 6
7-10 AM: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care
10-12:30: Philip Gerard Seminar: Declaring the Story
12:30-2: Lunch
2-5:15: Time for Writing, Reflection & Rejuvenation
5:15-7:30: Dinner
7:30: Reading: Philip Gerard, Moni Basu, Valerie Boyd

FRIDAY, AUG. 7
7-10 AM: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care
10-12:15: Narrative Practicalities: Discussion With Philip Gerard & Core Faculty
12:15-2: Lunch
2-3:30: Mentor Matchup Session
3:30-5:15: Time for Writing, Reflection
5:15-7:30: Dinner
Free Night!

SATURDAY, AUG. 8
7-10 AM: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care
10-12:15: Cohort Meetings With Mentors
12:15-2: Lunch
2-5:15: Individual Student-Mentor Meetings
5:15-7:30: Dinner
7:30: Film Screening: Innocence
**SUNDAY, AUG. 9**

7-10 AM: Free Time for Breakfast, Yoga, Meditation, Exercise, Journaling, Self-Care

9-11: Individual Student-Mentor Meetings As Needed

11-12: Closing Circle Farewell
NARRATIVE NONFICTION SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

Note: You may access all required reading through the links below or through Dropbox. Check your email for a link to the Dropbox folders.

SEMINAR: THE LITERATURE OF FACT
MELISSA FAY GREENE
“Great stories,” it is said, “happen to those who can tell them.” We set ourselves a high bar when we fall in love with nonfiction. We take on fidelity to accuracy and fairness, while prostrating ourselves to the fiction gods of plot, character, and fine use of language. Is something lost when we decide to tell stories not created out of whole cloth, stories defined by what they are not—nonfiction? Something is surely gained, as well. And what is gained may be found in the tension between the two—the lyrical play-acting of fiction and the loyalty to history, to what actually happened.
10am Saturday, Aug. 1
Journalism Building, Room 409

SEMINAR: WHAT IS NARRATIVE?
VALERIE BOYD (WITH MONI BASU & JOHN T. EDGE)
This seminar will explore the intersection of journalism and literature, the art of telling true stories. This form of writing is sometimes called narrative nonfiction, narrative journalism, literary journalism or creative nonfiction. Writer John McPhee calls it “the literature of fact.” Some of us call it “factual literature.” In this seminar, we’ll discuss the basic elements of narrative and talk about how thorough, thoughtful reporting and imaginative writing can turn facts into art. Together, we will begin our two-year adventure of exploring how good nonfiction narratives are made.
10am Sunday, Aug. 2
Journalism Building, Room 409

Please complete the following reading/viewing/listening before the seminar:
- “Midnight in the Garden of East Texas,” Texas Monthly
  http://www.texasmonthly.com/story/midnight-garden-east-texas
- Watch Bernie, starring Jack Black, available on Netflix
- “Snow Fall: The Avalanche at Tunnel Creek,” The New York Times (all parts)
- “The Katrina Class,” Garden and Gun
  http://gardenandgun.com/article/katrina-class
SEMINAR: WRITING PLACE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH
JOHN T. EDGE

Back when I first began reading and writing with any kind of rigor, I read these two sentences in Pat Conroy’s novel *The Prince of Tides*: “My wound is geography. It is also my anchorage, my port of call.” Sure, that couplet is a bit overwrought. But when I read those words, they helped me recognize why I was obsessed with place and why I wanted to explore the idea of place through writing. Place makes us. And place has the potential to unmake us too. Place is our anchor. That’s seemingly good. But heavy anchors can pull us under. We will read and discuss great writing about place, ranging from Stone Mountain to Selma to Appalachia. As we read and talk we will keep in mind: All narratives happen somewhere. And readers want to know what that somewhere smells, tastes, looks, feels, and sounds like. They need to know what story that somewhere tells.

2pm Sunday, Aug. 2
Journalism Building, Room 409

Please complete the reading below before the seminar (see email for Dropbox link):

• **Selma, Alabama**
  Assignment America: Selma, Gay Talese, 1965
  Where’s the Spirit of Selma Now? Gay Talese, 2015

• **Stone Mountain, Georgia**
  Finding Southern Comfort, Valerie Boyd
  Go Tell It on the Mountain, Charles McNair

• **How Restaurants Serve Communities**
  Open House, John T. Edge
  Pie + Change + Design, John T. Edge

• **Places in Peril**
  A Stranger with a Camera, Calvin Trillin
  Louisiana Loses Its Boot, Brett Anderson

Last, please listen to this Gravy podcast, The Last Jews of Natchez, by Robin Amer. Stream it here and access some contextual information: [http://www.southernfoodways.org/gravy/the-last-jews-of-natchez-gravy-ep-14/](http://www.southernfoodways.org/gravy/the-last-jews-of-natchez-gravy-ep-14/) Or just download the episode free from iTunes or Soundcloud to listen on a mobile device. Included in the readings is the script for this episode too. Please read it after you have listened to the podcast.
THE CONTRARIAN’S GUIDE TO AUTHORITY—AND CHARM
HARRIET WASHINGTON
As nonfiction writers, we devote ourselves to the pursuit of truth. This is especially true for those of us who are science writers. But science is done by fallible men and women, making scientific truth as vulnerable to mythology, economic pressures and even willful distortion as any other human endeavor. Because science differs from most other enterprises in its mantles of “objectivity,” disinterestedness and even infallibility, alternative perspectives or frank challenges are frequently met with hostility. All this means that “contrarian” writers must achieve authority and defuse hostility or they will not be heard. In this daylong seminar, we will explore tools—research, rhetorical and expressive—for doing so.

10am Monday, Aug. 3
Journalism Building, Room 409

Please complete the reading below before the seminar (see email for Dropbox link):
• “Biocolonialism,” pages 263-299 from Deadly Monopolies: The Shocking Corporate Takeover of Life Itself—and the Consequences for Your Health and Our Medical Future

• “Nuclear Winter,” pages 216-243 in Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Experimentation from Colonial Times to the Present

HISTORICAL RESEARCH DAY: WHAT’S PAST IS PROLOGUE
JANICE HUME
Historical research is crucial for narrative writing. It helps us understand not only the “who?” and “what?” but also the “why?” so important for in-depth storytelling. It provides primary evidence and essential context. And it can be overwhelming. During this daylong seminar we will consider the work of historians. What is the nature of history? Of memory? How do archives work? What sources can be trusted? How should they be interpreted? How much is enough? Is “revisionist” a bad word? We will explore primary and secondary resources available here at UGA, and we will end the day deep underground with a tour of the University’s Special Collections vault.

10am Tuesday, Aug. 4
Journalism Building, Room 412

Please complete the reading below before the seminar (see email for Dropbox link):
• Carl Becker’s 1931 address to the AHA: “Everyman His Own Historian”

• David Paul Nord: “The Nature of Historical Research”

• James West Davidson and Mark Hamilton Lytle: “The Visible and Invisible Worlds of Salem”

• Steve Oney: And the Dead Shall Rise, chapters 1-3, notes, sources, and acknowledgments
SEMINAR: REPORTING FOR NARRATIVE
MONI BASU
In this seminar, we’ll explore reporting techniques for narrative journalism. Most of the time, a strong narrative calls for immersion reporting. That allows you to inhabit the story and write it with the kind of authority that makes your readers feel they are there with you. We’ll discuss interviewing skills and using the power of observation. And what if you can’t be there? What are the kinds of questions you need to ask to be able to craft a narrative by phone? As in investigative journalism, your reportage must be able to answer this question: How do you know this to be true? If the story is not thoroughly researched and reported, it will be flawed. Without detailed reporting, a narrative is destined for failure.

2pm Wednesday, Aug. 5
Journalism Building, Room 409

Please complete the following reading before the seminar:
• “For Richard family, loss and love,” The Boston Globe

SEMINAR: DECLARING THE STORY
PHILIP GERARD
Whenever we approach a new project—a book, essay, or documentary—we understand implicitly that we need to stretch our craft, to learn what we need to know about the subject, to live up to the demands of the project. But we can easily forget that the reader, the audience, needs our guidance: Who is telling this story and why? What is the nature of the story? How does the writer's—and reader's—private passion intersect with the subject? How does the narrator know what he or she is telling? What patterns might an audience expect, and what promises are implicit in those patterns? What is the story going to be about, in large and small ways? In this session we'll explore how some writers have met this challenge. We’ll start with first principles: how do we choose a subject? How does that subject become a narrative? How do we judge the scope of the project? Then we'll move on to ways to engage the audience as soon and as urgently as possible—declaring the story with clarity and power, claiming the literal and emotional territory it will inhabit, and making it come true on the page.

10am Thursday, Aug. 6
Journalism Building, Room 409
Most of your questions... Answered.

How do I get to Hotel Indigo from the Atlanta airport?
We use the Groome Shuttle service all the time and love how easy it is! To make a reservation, please visit their website (http://athens.groometransportation.com). You'll get dropped off right at the door of Hotel Indigo!

Does the hotel have free wi-fi in the room?
Absolutely.

Is there secure wi-fi on campus?
Yes, you can use your UGA MyID credentials to log on to the secure “PAWS” network on campus. We have IT folks in-house at the Journalism Building who can help us if you run into any issues using the network.

What about parking?
If you are a guest of Hotel Indigo, you can park your car on their lot for no charge. There will be a 12-passenger van that can deliver you to and from classes each morning and evening.

If you have arranged other accommodations you will not be able to park your vehicle at the Indigo. Through communication with Kelly, you should have arranged for a parking permit to use the N08 parking lot on campus each day during the residency. (Parking coupons will be available for faculty and guests to park at the Tate Center.)

There are parking garages and street parking available as well. Please make note of limitations on time, and feel free to make use of the North Deck (on Jackson Street) for evening parking at a low rate.

Where can I work out?
If you are a guest of Hotel Indigo, you have access to the Omni gym located down the street at The Standard. Please check with the hotel desk before you go the first time to see what information or card you might need to identify yourself as an Indigo guest.

If you have arranged other accommodations, or just want to explore, you may work out at the Ramsey Recreation Center on campus. The Ramsey is a large facility offering a range of workout options, including swimming laps, an indoor track, and weight rooms. Parking can be a bit of a challenge around the Ramsey Center, so please be sure to check into parking options before you go.
Where can I get snacks through the day?
While we will provide light snacks and coffee/tea through the day, do get out and explore the meal options on campus. The Bulldog Café in the Tate Student Center offers a range of meal options from breakfast through the afternoon, and there is also a Jittery Joe’s location just across the street from the Journalism Building on the 2nd level of the Miller Learning Center.

At lunchtime get out and explore some of the great options on Broad Street and in the blocks downtown. We’ve provided a list of places to try with this packet. If you have a car (or make friends with someone who does) get out and explore some of our smaller grocery stores and cafes for other treats.

Yoga?
We will gather to do yoga on the deck outside the main lobby of Hotel Indigo on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings during the residency. Yoga will begin at 8:00am and conclude by 9:00am, leaving you just enough time to shower and prep for the day’s activities. Since there are no PE credits in the MFA program, we will collect $10/person for each session you drop into to compensate our yoga instructor, Ruth. Please give your payments in cash to Kelly before the start of each day’s yoga session.

Is breakfast provided? And if not, what should I do?
Breakfast will be provided twice through the residency, highlighting some of the local favorite fare. You are encouraged to try some of the restaurants around the downtown area, or take advantage of the light and healthful breakfast options in the Hotel Indigo restaurant.

When will we register for classes?
On the first Saturday of the residency, we will meet to complete our registrations online. Please visit your Athena account in advance of this registration date to make sure holds are cleared and that registration will go smoothly!
FUN STUFF TO DO IN ATHENS
Compiled by Rebekah Ryan

Restaurants
Big City Bread Café
http://www.bigcitybreadcafe.com
Check out Big City Bread for a tasty breakfast, lunch, or dinner. BCB is just a 12-minute walk from Hotel Indigo through scenic downtown Athens.

Last Resort Grill
http://www.lastresortgrill.com
One of Athens’ most popular restaurants, the Last Resort offers a fancy atmosphere with a bit of Southern comfort. Be sure to save room for dessert.

Mama’s Boy
https://mamasboyathens.com
Only open for breakfast and brunch, Mama’s Boy serves awesome biscuits and many other delicious options. Be sure to try out their tasty jams. Expect a short wait at peak times, as Mama’s Boy is one of Athens’ most popular breakfast joints. But it’s worth the wait!

Taqueria Del Sol
http://www.taqueriadellos.com
Taqueria is known for their delicious tacos and margaritas. It’s located just down the road from Hendershots. Best fish tacos ever!

Coffee Shops
Hendershots
http://hendershotscoffee.com
The atmosphere at Hendershots is perfect for getting some work done while sipping delicious coffee or beer. Mondays are open-mic nights at Hendershots, so go to listen or sign up to participate by visiting their Facebook page by 12pm Sundays. A roster of live bands plays throughout the week.

Jittery Joe’s
http://www.jitteryjoes.com
Jittery Joe’s is another popular coffee shop in Athens, with a downtown location as well as one at the Miller Learning Center across the street from the Journalism Building. If you go there enough during your stay in Athens, you might be able to earn yourself a free drink with 10 stamps on your Jittery Joe’s card!

Walkers Coffee and Pub
http://www.walkerscoffee.com
If you’re looking for a great place to sit and sip some coffee while you work, check out Walkers. Coffee shop/restaurant by day and bar by night, the atmosphere here is just right, and it’s walking distance from Hotel Indigo.
Dessert

Gigi’s Cupcakes
http://www.gigiscupcakesusa.com/athensgeorgia
If you have a hankering for something sweet, Gigi’s cupcakes serves the best cupcakes around! Gigi’s is located just on the outskirts of downtown Athens, walking distance from Hotel Indigo.

Insomnia Cookies
https://insomniacookies.com
If you need a midnight snack, Insomnia Cookies is your place. Cookies are served warm with optional ice cream or milk. If you’re feeling particularly lazy, Insomnia also delivers and is open until 3am!

Bars

Blue Sky
http://blueskyathens.com
This is the perfect bar for grabbing a drink or two with your new friends. Sit inside in one of the booths or outside on the porch to enjoy the warm summer night. Blue Sky is located above Walkers Coffee and Pub, walking distance from Hotel Indigo.

Creature Comforts
http://www.creaturecomfortsbeer.com
Creature Comforts is within walking distance from Hotel Indigo, conveniently located in downtown Athens. This place has a great atmosphere and is perfect for getting to know your new MFA friends while enjoying a few glasses of refreshing craft beer unique to Athens. The brewery is open Tuesday-Friday 5-8pm and Saturdays 1-4pm.

Little Kings Shuffle Club
https://www.facebook.com/lkshuffleclub
Little Kings is popular with Athens “townies,” UGA students as well as older couples. On Wednesday nights, Little Kings offers salsa dance lessons for a small entrance fee (which includes one drink at the bar!). Lots of indoor and outdoor fun and live music!

Terrapin Beer Company
http://terrapinbeer.com
Jam out to live music and take a tour of the brewery. Or just go and taste as much craft beer as you’d like with the purchase of a Terrapin glass. Terrapin is one of Athens’ most popular hangouts, so arrive early to avoid long lines.

Trappeze Pub
http://trappezepub.com
Recently remodeled, Trappeze has a new menu and a huge selection of craft beers. Food, drinks, fun!
Live Entertainment
The Foundry
http://thefoundryathens.com/foundry-calendar/calendar-view/
The Foundry is one of Athens’ many unique music venues and also serves delicious food and drinks. Take a look at The Foundry’s calendar to see if there’s a local band you’d like to check out.

The Georgia Theatre
http://www.georgiatheatre.com
You can’t come to Athens without visiting the famous Georgia Theatre! Go to hear awesome live music or make your way up to the rooftop bar to enjoy the ambiance of downtown Athens at night while sipping a delicious cocktail or craft beer.

Taking Care of Business
Banks
Need some extra cash? There are several banks located in downtown Athens. Check this link to find a bank that works for you.

Daily Groceries Co-Op
http://www.dailygroceries.org
Need a few snacks for your hotel room? There are several grocery store options around Athens, but Daily Groceries Co-Op is located within walking distance of Hotel Indigo. They offer a wide variety of organic groceries, produce, and vegan and vegetarian options.

Dry Cleaners
If you need something dry-cleaned, check out Bulldog Laundry located at 798 Baxter Street. 706-548-9950.

UGA Bookstore & Tate Center
Visit the UGA Bookstore across from the Journalism Building to pick up books from our writing faculty. You also can purchase some UGA memorabilia for friends and family to share your UGA pride. The adjacent Tate Center—also walking distance from the Journalism Building—offers a food court, The Bulldog Café, with a variety of options for snacks or a quick lunch: http://foodservice.uga.edu/locations/bulldog-cafe

Across the street from the Tate Center is Sanford Stadium, home of the famous Georgia Bulldogs football team. Take a selfie in front of the sign to document your time here in Athens!

Village Drug Shop
http://www.villagedrugshop.com
If you need to pick up a few things, there are several CVS stores around town. But the Village Drug Shop, an Athens staple, is probably the closest drug store to downtown Athens, 740 Prince Ave. 706-548-4444.
The Basics
UGA’s innovative low-residency MFA program allows students to complete most of their degree requirements off campus while developing their skills and talents under the guidance of experienced faculty writing mentors. Students begin each semester by visiting campus for an intensive 10-day residency, followed by a four-month online writing period. During this period, each student works on an individualized learning plan, governed by a Writing Period Contract, under the mentorship of a faculty writer. Students will work with a variety of faculty mentors over the course of the two-year program. At the fifth and final residency, each student will present a 20-minute craft seminar and perform a reading of her/his creative work.

Writing Period Contract
Near the end of each residency, students will be assigned the faculty mentor with whom they will work closely for the upcoming Writing Period. In consultation with that faculty mentor, each student will develop his/her unique, individualized Writing Period Contract, outlining the writing and reading s/he plans to explore over the semester. (Writing Period Contract forms will be distributed to students at each residency.) Both the student and the mentor will sign off on the Writing Period Contract, and the student will file a copy with the MFA program office. This Writing Period Contract will guide the student and the faculty mentor in their work together throughout the semester.

Monthly Packets
Students are required to submit packets of their writing to their faculty mentors on a monthly basis. Students and mentors together will determine which writing projects and goals the student will undertake in a given semester. Additionally, students and mentors will negotiate due dates and format of delivery (snail mail, email, etc.), and this information will be included in the Writing Period Contract, which both student and mentor will sign before the end of each residency. A typical monthly packet will include about 20 pages of creative writing, or up to 30 pages of revised writing that the faculty mentor has previously seen. Each packet also should include at least two Reading Responses—thoughtful short pieces (500 words or less) tracking and engaging with the books and other narratives the student is studying. Each student, with input from her/his faculty mentor, will have developed a reading list for the semester of 10-12 books (or other narratives), which will be listed in the Writing Period Contract, along with the student’s individual writing goals for the semester.

The Final Manuscript
In the final semester of the program, each student will focus primarily on the preparation of his/her final manuscript, an original, polished manuscript of narrative nonfiction. In preparing the final manuscript, students will revise and reflect on work written during all of their semesters in the program. This process will provide students with the opportunity to shape a volume of their own work, which may take the form of a sustained narrative (chapters for a book), or a collection of disparate or connected pieces. The minimum length for the final manuscript is 100 polished, publishable pages, or about 25,000 words.