

# CAT 125R Schedule

**Course Description:** <https://sixth.ucsd.edu/cat/courses/cat-125-and-cat-125r.html>

## **Required Texts & Technology**

- Netflix subscription (week 2-4)
- Access to Canvas & Course Reserves
- Notebook & Writing Utensil
- Recommended: *They Say, I Say CAT Edition*

**Mondays:** 9-11am OH, Asynchronous Weekly Overview, Discussion Board, & Assignment Review

**Wednesdays:** 9-11am Discussion & Writing Workshop

## **Course Calendar**

*Please note readings and screenings are liable to change as the class progresses. I will never add additional readings or assignments, but may revise and substitute what is already here (If I change anything, I will give you lots of notice and reminders!). All screenings and readings should be done before class the day that they are on the calendar (unless stated otherwise). If you have readings that you think would be a great fit, please send them my way!*

*We will read/watch some difficult texts that contain depictions of violence (including sexual violence), homophobia, racism. Please review the syllabus and the schedule below to be sure you are comfortable with engaging with this topics, with empathy and understanding.*

**Weeks 1-3:** The first half of this course asks you to turn inward and the authors we read and media we watch will demonstrate ways to do this, particularly incorporating personal experience and memoir into broader political conversations. These narratives are all meant as fodder for thinking about how you narrate your own life, experience, and movement through the world and how those stories are both political and powerful.

**Weeks 3-5 :**The second half of this course turns those same conversations outward, considering how to tell politically impactful stories on topics of your choice. This part of the course asks you to take what you are concerned about, do some research, and then practice how you inform and persuade an audience (i.e. this class) about a topic near and dear to your heart/mind/passion.

	<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
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<p><b><u>Week 1: Introduction to 125/R &amp; Stories and Power</u></b></p> <p>Topics: Personal Narrative, Storytelling, Power &amp; Permission</p>	<p>Read: Ocean Vuong, <a href="#">“Someday I’ll Love Ocean Vuong”</a> + Discussion Board Post due by 11:59pm.</p>	<p><b><u>Due: Weekly Annotations &amp; Reflections due Wednesday by 8am</u></b></p> <p>Watch: <a href="#">“The Power of Vulnerability”</a></p> <p>Listen: <a href="#">Finding Fred, “A Genius of Empathy”</a> (Ep 1) &amp; <a href="#">“(EP 18) PT 9- UNDER THE BLACKLIGHT: NARRATING THE NIGHTMARE &amp;(RE)IMAGINING THE POSSIBLE”</a></p> <p><b><u>Bring: Your current CV/Resume</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Due: Personal Narrative Proposal + CV/Resume: due Friday by 11:59pm:</u></b> 1. Turn in your revised CV/Resume with highlights of what you changed. 2. Then, write a quick proposal (200-300 words) for your personal narrative. Your proposal should be ONE paragraph and address 1) your topic 2) your audience 3) the genre of your essay. Be as specific as you can in this as that will help support you in the drafting process. As you begin drafting, this proposal might be revised to become the first paragraph of your essay. (Complete/Incomplete)</p>
<p><b><u>Week 2: Laughter, Joy, and Pain &amp; Organizing Silences and Creating Space</u></b></p> <p>Topics: emotional appeal, narrating your experience, setting your own goals</p>	<p><b><u>Due: Weekly Annotations #2</u></b></p> <p>Read: Gloria Anzaldúa <a href="#">“Speaking in Tongues”</a> &amp; <a href="#">Joseph Azam, “Last, First, Middle”</a></p>	<p>Watch <i>Nanette</i> (Netflix) &amp; Frederik Backman, <a href="#">“Creative Anxiety”</a></p> <p><b><u>Due: Personal Essay Draft #1 Due Wednesday by 8am for Peer Review (Peer Review Directions)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Review: UC Personal Statements &amp; Statements of Purpose</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Personal Essay Final Draft Due by Friday, 11:59pm</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Week 3: Telling a Story: Fashion &amp; On Curiosity and Asking Questions</u></b></p>	<p>Due: Weekly Annotation #3</p> <p>Read: Gilbert, <a href="#">“Curiosity and Devotion</a></p>	<p><b><u>Watch: Oscar-winning short film <a href="#">Hair Love</a> (2019) and “<a href="#">The Medium is the Message</a>” (Video)</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Due: Annotated Bibliography with ALL the sources you intend to use.</u></b></p>

<p>Topics: logical appeals, research</p>	<p><a href="#">to Inquisitiveness</a>” ; Marita Golden, <a href="#">My Black Hair: a Tangled Story of Race and Politics in America</a> (2015) and Tanisha C. Ford, "Dashiki" chapter 1 of <a href="#">Dressed in Dreams</a></p>	<p><b><a href="#">Public Performance Proposal by 11:59pm:</a></b> Write a quick proposal (150-250 words) for your public performance. Your proposal should include 1) a one-paragraph description of your topic, and 2) a mood board with pictures, colors, and fonts that communicate the general feel of your presentation and showcase how you intend to use your slides to support your thesis or central claim effectively. (Complete/Incomplete)</p>	
<p><b><u>Week 4: Turning Out: Questions and Researching Answers (Example about Food) &amp; Talking About your Stuff</u></b></p>	<p>Due: Annotations + Observations #4</p> <p>Watch <i>Chef’s Table</i>, “Mashama Bailey” (Vol 6, Ep 1) &amp; “<a href="#">Fried Chicken is Common Ground</a>” (Osayi Endolyn)</p> <p>Read: If you don't have Netflix access: On topic about food and race this week, an amazing food writer who is in the episode we watched this week, <a href="#">“When White People say Plantation.”</a></p>	<p><b><u>Read:</u></b> Chantha Nguon &amp; Kim Green, “<a href="#">The Gradual Extinction of Softness</a>” (2021); Tom Chiarella, “<a href="#">The Invisible Grip</a>” &amp; “<a href="#">How to Tell a Dragon Slaying Story</a>”</p> <p><b><u>Due: Draft of Public Performance (Script + Slides) for Peer Review (Peer Review Directions)</u></b></p>	
<p><b><u>Week 5: The Internet and Digital Decluttering &amp; On Reflection</u></b></p>	<p><i>Asynchronous Response to Individual Speeches on Canvas Discussion Boards. Due by</i></p>	<p><b><u>Read:</u></b> Tom Chatfield, “<a href="#">The Attention Economy</a>” &amp; Tim Kreider, “<a href="#">The Busy</a></p>	<p><b><u>Final Reflection Due by Saturday at 11:59pm</u></b></p>

	11:59pm.	<a href="#">Trap</a> Recommended: Frank Pasquale, <a href="#">“The Algorithmic Self”</a> <b><u>Wrapping it up and SMART goal setting</u></b>	
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Note: In 125 courses, speeches will happen in person and be performed in class during Week 5

**Additional Readings & Screenings:**

Arielle Bernsetin, [“Mari Kondo and the Privilege of Clutter”](#)

*Chef’s Table*, “Cristina Martinez” (Vol 5, Ep 1) (Netflix)

Phoebe Bronstein, [“Our Modern Attempt to Control Pregnancy is Just another Attempt to Control Women’s Bodies”](#) & [“Violently Inclined”](#) & [“Quiet Times”](#)

Kristi Coulter, [“Enjoli”](#)

Frederick Douglass, [“What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”](#)

Hannah Gadsby, [“Three Ideas. Three Contradictions. Or not.”](#)

Roxane Gay, “A Tale of Three Coming Out Stories” (in *Bad Feminist*)

Roxane Gay, [“What fullness is”](#)

[“This I Believe Speeches”](#)

Myriam Gurba, [“Pendeja, You Ain’t My Steinbeck”](#)

“Introduction,” [Nonbinary: Memoirs of Gender & Identify](#)

bell hooks, [“Moving Beyond Pain”](#)

Wayne Koestenbaum, [“My 80s”](#)

NPR, [“She’s Funny”](#) (NPR Special Column)

[NYT article on COVID & Mental Health](#)

David Sedaris, [“Stepping Out”](#)

Jenny Slate, *Stage Fright* (Netflix)

Sarah Todd, [“What Rescue Dogs Can Teach us about Vulnerability”](#)

Amy Schumer, *Growing* (Netflix)

Alexandra Schwartz, [“Improving Ourselves to Death”](#)

[“The Subaltern”](#)

Ocean Vuong, [“Someday I’ll Love Ocean Vuong”](#)

Wambui Wainaina, [“Biographical Friction”](#)

Ali Wong, *Baby Cobra* (Netflix)

Roxanne Gay, [“When Twitter Does What Journalism Can’t”](#)  
[The Dolly Parton Challenge](#)  
[“The Danger of Fake Positivity & Spiritual Bypassing”](#)

PS If you have personal essays you think are awesome, please share with me and I’ll add them to the list!