



SANTOS BOOKS  
EVERY STORY SACRED

## Discovering Wisdom as We Age Winter, 2025

Purpose: To discover, cultivate, and share one's pathway to wisdom.

Timeframe: January through April

Day and Time: Tuesday 6-8 p.m. EST

Instructor: Dr. Conrad L. Kanagy

### **January 14 Deep listening for my story**

Reading: Buechner's *The Sacred Journey* (Introduction and Chapter 1)  
Kanagy and Kraybill's *The Riddles of Society* (Chapter 2, 10)  
Kanagy reading "We are all poets—Even IKEA"

Topics: Introductions  
Overview of course  
Writing sociobiographies/sociobiographies  
Exegeting one's life—history, biography, sociology, spirituality  
Making sense of my socially constructed world  
Discovering my inner poet  
Coaching, reflecting, writing, and sharing

Assignment: Write one or two pages about the landscape into which you or your subject was dropped at birth

**January 28 Mapping my life**

Newman's *Mango Tree* (Chapters 1-3)

Kanagy and Kraybill's *The Riddles of Society* (Chapter 2, 10)

Topics: Where was I and where am I now?  
Landmarks in my story  
Metaphors that make sense  
The faces in my mirror  
Coaching, reflecting, writing, and sharing

Assignment: Create an outline of the essay you are writing

**February 11 Digging into my basement**

Reading: Kanagy essays from *Digging into the Basement*

Kanagy and Kraybill's *The Riddles of Society* (Chapters 5-7)

Beneath my taken-for-granted reality  
Culture, structure, and ritual  
Where I have pivoted  
Looking at my younger self  
Coaching, reflecting, writing, and sharing

Assignment: Write a letter to your younger self

**February 25 Writing my story**

Reading: Kanagy essays from *Digging into the Basement*

Selections from Newman's *Mango Tree*

Topics: Fundamentals of writing—through-lines and arcs  
The function of words and stories  
Orientation, disorientation, new orientation  
Coaching, reflecting, writing, and sharing

Assignment: First draft of your essay

**March 11      Discovering my wisdom**

Reading:      Schwartz' essay "The Everyday Perspective"

Topics          Leaving the everyday perspective behind  
                  What do I see now?  
                  Framing a new reality  
                  Resolution, closure, and wholeness  
                  Coaching, reflecting, writing, and sharing

Assignment:   Write second draft of essay

**March 25      Preparing to share my story\***

Reading:      None

Topics:          Lament and gratitude  
                  Stewardship of my story  
                  Publishing my essays  
                  Coaching, reflecting, writing, and sharing

Assignment:   Create presentations

**April 8                      Presenting my story\***  
                                 Presentations  
                                 Wrap-up and next steps