CREATIVE WRITING: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY AND FICTION
Course: CRWRI-UA.815.001, Session II
Time: Mon/Wed 1:30-4:40pm
Instructor: Hannah Gilham
Email: hg696@nyu.edu
Class Location: 25 W. 4th Street, Rm C-16
Office Hours: Before or after class, by appointment

CLASS OVERVIEW
The goal of this course is for students to explore and develop an understanding of the creative uses of language and storytelling. Each class will be divided into craft and workshop. In the craft portion, we'll read and discuss poetry and prose, focusing on voice, structure, story, image, POV, and developing methods of achieving these techniques. We will be reading texts that challenge the typical definition of poetry and fiction. We’ll also keep a writers notebook where we’ll collect in-class writing assignments, class notes, doodles, snippets of conversation you hear on the train, whatever you want. In the workshop portion of the course, you’ll submit your own fiction and poetry and receive constructive notes from classmates. The intent is to give feedback that helps you see what you are conveying successfully and what could use another look during revision. My hope is that this class will provide tools to help students explore, experiment, and develop their skills as writers and readers.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Craft
This semester, we will be looking at everything from fairy tales and fables to poetry comics and creative nonfiction. My intent is that you will find inspiration from these varied readings to challenge yourselves as readers and writers. From these readings, we will discuss use of character development, plot, dialogue, image, etc.

Always bring a copy of your reading assignment to class. Read it before class. Notice what you notice. Note 1-3 items in your writer notebook that you found interesting. It can be a quote. It can be the use of language. It can be the way a scene is laid out. It can be something you like. Or not. Just notice what you notice. We’ll discuss these in class, so please be prepared.

Journals
I will provide each student with a writer notebook on the first day of class. We’ll add in-class writing assignments, reading notes and anything else related to writing in this notebook. Please date and name each entry. I’ll be asking to look at these a few times through the semester. I’ll be passing out a more detailed sheet discussing the function of these notebooks.

Taking Advantage of NYC Literary/Art Scene
During the course of the semester, you are expected to attend at least one reading/art show/exhibition etc., and write a page-long review/write-up about your experience. I will provide heads-ups on upcoming readings, but you are responsible to research these on your own.

**Course Texts**
We’ll be reading and discussing works by Maggie Nelson, Ross Gay, Sharon Olds, the Grimm Brothers, Carmen Maria Machado, Claudia Rankine, Octavia Butler, Kaveh Akbar, Anne Carson, Art Spiegelman and many others. I will provide a PDF on NYU Classes where you can access (and print out for class) each week’s reading in advance.

**WORKSHOP**
The second half of class will be dedicated to workshopping original pieces. You will submit your work three times over the semester. One fiction piece, one poetry piece, and one piece of your choice. Bring enough copies of your submission for everyone the class period before your assigned submission date. (IE If you are supposed to workshop July 16, please bring copies on July 11). Always include your full name, working title of the piece, date, and page numbers.

**Writer Submission Format**
**Short Story:** 5-15 pages double spaced (12pt font, 1” margins, Times New Roman, or similar serif font only.)
**Poetry:** 1-5 pages, single spaced, unless purposefully formatted otherwise.
**Writer’s Choice:** Flash fiction (1-5 pages double spaced), or a poem (1-3 pages single spaced), or a short story (5-10 pages double spaced)

**Reader Response Format**
You will read workshop submissions twice. The first time as a reader. The second time to provide handwritten line edits. This means marking passages that you like, suggesting improvements, asking questions, and noting any errors. You will then write a letter to the author, around 250 words, providing feedback on what worked and any suggestions you may have to better the piece. *Bring two (2) printed copies of the letter to class.*

**General Workshop Etiquette**
The goal of workshop is to make someone’s writing stronger, but to do that well, **respect is key**. We will be discussing workshop etiquette and format during the first class.

**CLASS POLICIES & GRADES**

**Attendance**
Because this course is so short, you are only allowed one absence. After that, official documentation (doctor’s note, etc.) will need to be provided. Two tardies over 15 minutes will count as an absence. If you miss a class period where we are scheduled to workshop your piece,
you will lose an entire letter grade, and if it happens a second time, you will fail the class, **no exceptions.**

**Electronic Devices**
Silence them or turn them off before class starts. I will expect all readings to be printed in hard copy, and all in-class writing should be done by hand. If you foresee any issues with this, please come see me.

**Plagiarism**
Don’t do it. Really. Any instance of plagiarism will be reported to the department and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with NYU policy.

**Email Policy**
I will respond to emails sent during normal business hours, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beyond those hours, I cannot guarantee a timely response. Please plan accordingly. If you foresee any issues with this policy, please come visit me during office hours.

**Office Hours**
**Students are required to come see me at least once during office hours.** During this time, we can talk about your work and how I can be of help, so please come with questions. Ideally, it should be the week after you are workshoped. If you are unable to meet during scheduled office hours, please contact me so we can make other arrangements.

**Final Portfolio**
A revised portfolio of your work is due on the last day of class. The portfolio will include the following:

- Cover Page with your Name, Date, Email Address
- A letter that reflects on what you’ve written, what the revision process has taught you, what stories we read most shaped your thinking this semester, and what kind of writer you’d like to be as you move forward. 1-2 double spaced pages.
- My original critiqued copies for your three workshop submissions.
- Substantially revised versions of two of those submissions.

**Grading Policy**
30% Class Participation & Preparation
25% Workshop Submission & Peer Feedback
25% Writer Notebook
20% Final Portfolios
Creative writing can sometimes bring up a dark or painful part of someone’s past (or present). While sometimes we write pure fiction, if I suspect some personal trauma has made its way into your work, as your professor, I am obligated to report any sexual assault or violence suspected (even if it’s in the past). I am also required to report any indication I have that a student might want to harm him or herself, or others. While I can remain a private resource for you, I cannot guarantee confidentiality as prohibited under Title IX as an employee at NYU. I will have to report my concerns to the Title IX office or the Wellness Exchange, who will then reach out to you directly to offer support services. Our Wellness Program is amazing, and I highly recommend everyone take advantage of it. Being a human (and a student, and a writer) is hard, and NYU makes it very easy to ask for some help.

**IF YOU THINK YOUR WORKSHOP PIECE MAY CAUSE CONCERN, PLEASE EMAIL OR COME SEE ME ASAP.**

**The Wellness Exchange**

The Wellness Exchange is your key to accessing the University's extensive health and mental health resources designed to address your needs. You can call a private hotline (212-443-9999), available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, which will put you in touch with a professional who can help to address day-to-day challenges as well as other health-related concerns. These might include: medical issues, academic stress, depression, sexual assault, anxiety, alcohol and other drug dependence, sexually transmitted infections, eating disorders…

The hotline is also available if you just need to talk or want to call about a friend.

**Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities**

New York University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity and participation for students with disabilities. We work with NYU students to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodations that support equal access to a world-class education.

Email: mosescsd@nyu.edu