

## SUMMER PROGRAM SYLLABUS 2017

Writers in New York

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-5PM

**Instructor: Matthew Rohrer**

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**Office: Lillian Vernon Creative Writing Center,  
58 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

### ***THE GENERATIVE PROJECT WORKSHOP***

#### ***Course description and Objectives***

This course will introduce students to the idea of writing as a long-term process. We will look at poems by a wide range of poets who engage in self-generating projects; we will look particularly at the city as a generative element in those projects; and we will look at this phenomenon as a way to approach our own writing. There will be daily readings that examine different methods of generating writing, including poems by Percy Bysshe Shelley, Claud McKay, Matthew Zapruder, Anne Sexton and many others. The class will consist of in-class and take-home writing exercises based on the readings for the week, and discussion thereof. By the end of the course, students will have developed their own extended, generative project to carry them into the Unknown.

#### ***Requirements***

##### **Your grade will be based on:**

- In-class participation, including attendance. This is 75% of your grade. This means being an active participant in our discussions and doing the writing exercises.
- Turning in 5-7 critical, analytical questions on each of the readings. 25% of your grade. Not questions like “how many pages long is this?” but more like “how does writing in series affect the choices the poet makes?”. As a guideline, use the general topic for each class to guide your questions. Be analytical, look closely at structure, methods, techniques, etc. I’ll hand out a sample

##### **Required Textbooks:**

- Ted Berrigan, *The Sonnets*, Penguin
- Jen Bervin, *Nets, Ugly Duckling*, Presse
- Mary Ruefle, *A Little White Shadow*, Wave
- Jon Woodward, *Rain, Wave*
- CA Conrad, *A Beautiful Marsupial Afternoon*, Wave
- Coursepack from New University Copies on Waverly Place

**Schedule –Have the following books read, and your analytical questions ready to hand in, on the day indicated, below: note: no papers due on day 1**

CLASS	READINGS
1	<b>Zapruder</b> (Noelle poems)/ <b>Berrigan</b> poem w/explanation; Jeff Tweedy quote
2	Formal Technique: <b>Shelley, McKay, Sexton (sonnets) Bishop, (villanelle) Khalvati (ghazal)</b>
3	Non-Traditional Forms: <b>Woodward</b>
4	False Translation: <b>Cameron</b> poems and afterward
5	Cut-ups/Collage: <b>Berrigan</b> essay and THE SONNETS .
6	Erasures: <b>Bervin/Ruefle</b>  <i>Students: please bring in a PROSE BOOK you don't mind defacing</i>
7	Games: <b>Yau</b> (vowel sonatas and title poem); <b>Cathy Park Hong</b> (2 ballads); <b>OULIPO</b> example
8	<b>CAConrad</b> Final Class: wrap up/students present their plans for projects Class poetry reading