

**Summer Writing Intensive
Fiction Craft Seminar
Instructor: Katie Kitamura
Tuesday and Thursday, 12.30PM – 3:00PM EST**

This craft seminar will cover the essentials of writing fiction: character development, dialogue, setting and more. We'll do this by looking at short stories and novel excerpts from writers including Roberto Bolano, Ottessa Moshfegh, George Saunders and Carmen Maria Machado. In each class we will explore a particular theme through assigned reading and in class writing exercises.

Reading will be emailed to you in advance of each class. Please come to class having read the assigned stories and prepared to contribute to the conversation. You will be asked to do a fifteen minute presentation on one story; for your final assignment please submit a piece of fiction (of around three to five pages) drawing from the exercises we do in class.

These are the only formal assignments for this course. However, in class participation is crucial to the success of this class, and forms a large part of your grade. In addition to responding to the assigned reading, you will be expected to share your work in class, and to give respectful feedback to the work of your peers. Please contact me if you have concerns about meeting this expectation. I can be reached on kmk10@nyu.edu.

Finally, office hours. Office hours will be held in the hour before each class, from 11.30AM – 12.30PM on Tuesdays and Thursday on Zoom. Please note that you are strongly encouraged to meet with me at least once. I will be circulating a sign up sheet; please sign up for time as soon as possible.

Please note the reading below is provisional and subject to change.

Session 1 Character

Introductions / Roberto Bolano, Extract from Nazi Literature in the Americas / Character studies / 20 Questions

Session 2 Voice

Assigned Reading: Lorrie Moore, 'How To Become a Writer'
Alice Munro, 'The Bear Came Over The Mountain'
Lesley Nneka Arimah, 'War Stories'

First person / Second person / Third person

Session 3 Dialogue

Assigned Reading: Raymond Carver, 'What We Talk About When We Talk About Love'
Bryan Washington, 'Alief'

Linda Rosenkrantz, Extract from Talk / Action and dialogue / Things said and unsaid

Session 4 Setting

Assigned Reading: Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Extract from *Places of My Infancy*
George Saunders, 'Pastoralia'

Evoking setting / Setting and character / Describe a room / Georges Perec, An Attempt at Exhausting a Place in Paris

Session 5 Conflict

Assigned Reading: Natalia Ginzburg, Extract from *The Dry Heart*
Dorthe Nors, Short Stories

Generating conflict / Teasing out plot / Pina Bausch exercise

Session 6 Non/ Fiction

Assigned Reading: Valeria Luiselli, Excerpt from *Sidewalks*
Patrick Modiano, Excerpt from *Dora Bruder*

Essays / Autofiction / Reporting on the world

Session 7 Experiment / Inspirations

Assigned Reading: Carmen Maria Machado, 'Especially Heinous'
Ottessa Moshfegh, 'A Better Place'

Experiments in fiction / Found text / Dissolving genre / Angela Carter

Session 8 Speculative Fictions

Assigned Reading: Octavia Butler, 'Bloodchild'
Ursula Le Guin, 'The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas'

World building / Alternate Worlds