

Section number: CRWRI-UA.815.007

Schedule: TR: 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

Instructor: Kyle Dillon Hertz

Email: kdh332@nyu.edu

“Finally, I’m crossing the threshold from the ordinary world to the reveal of my heart.”

“Get Free,” Lana Del Rey

Course Objective

In this course, students will read and discuss fiction and poetry from the perspective of craft, building a discourse that allows us to view writing as an artform that uses various tools to achieve a desired outcome. Each writer will submit four times over the semester. We will utilize in-class writing exercises and engaged discussion to help guide us toward understanding our own writing. While we consider the craft, let’s not forget the wonder of art. We are bringing things into the world that didn’t exist before we created them. That’s amazing!

Required Texts:

Angels by Denis Johnson

All other readings will be sent out as PDFs, or are available online.

Class Structure

At the start of each class, one student will bring in a book they like and read a single page to the class. You may bring any book of fiction, nonfiction, or poetry and read any selection that you enjoy. We want to discover our sensibilities, and we want to explore the potential sensibilities of many different writers. If you want to read a page of Lana Del Rey lyrics, go ahead. If you want to read a page of Shakespeare, go for it. The purpose is to share something you enjoy.

When you submit your work to class for workshop, you must bring a printed copy for each student. The syllabus notes when the submission is due. Be kind to yourself and other students by submitting on time.

Submissions

All submissions should be 12-point font, double spaced.

The first submission will be a poetry submission of three poems.

The second submission will be fiction of between 4-8 pages.

The third submission can be either poetry or fiction.

The fourth submission will be a single page of revised work, which we will discuss in class, as a way to explore the revision process.

Final Portfolio

The final portfolio consists of revised versions of the workshop submissions, plus the final single page we will workshop in the last week of class.

Office Hours

I'm available for office hours by appointment. Please, set up two meetings over the course of the semester. Please email me at kdh332@nyu.edu to schedule.

Grading

Attendance 20%

Participation 30%

Writing 30%

Final Portfolio 20%

Extra Credit 10%

Attendance

Two unexcused absences will be allowed. After two unexcused absences, your grade will drop by a half letter for each subsequent absence. Don't be late. If you're more than ten minutes late, you'll be considered absent.

Participation

Mark up the texts. When you comment on a writer's submission, you are expected to write all over their pages. Underline, circle, write your questions on the line. If something is unclear, write that it is unclear. If something made you laugh, indicate that it was funny. You are expected to type-up a single-page response to each submission. This is a place for you to communicate your thoughts on a piece in a cohesive manner that the writer will read in private. Be generous, be precise, be kind.

Technology

No phones, computers, or tablets.

Plagiarism

If you plagiarize, you will fail the course.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available to any student with a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility, learning disability, or who is deaf or hard of hearing. Students should please register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980.

NYU's Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with
Disabilities

726 Broadway, 2nd Floor New
York, NY 10003-6675
Telephone: 212-998-4980
Voice/TTY Fax: 212-995-4114
Web site:
<http://www.nyu.edu/csd>

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Student Wellness Policy:

Unless we see explicit evidence in workshop that the speaker of a work is the writer themselves, we assume the speaker is fictional. However, certain content relating to murder, depression, suicide, sexual assault, or severe mental distress, such as seems to be a possible cry for help, will likely prompt the instructor's attention. Please send an email putting this work in context before submitting work, especially for workshop, that may be interpreted as such. If you do feel you need someone to talk to at any point in the semester, please feel safe to reach out to me and I can guide you to the NYU Wellness Center.

Week 1

1/28: Introductions

1/30: Walt Whitman, "Specimen Days;" Donna Massini, "What Didn't Work;" Felix Gonzales-Torres *Bomb* interview.

Week 2

2/4: *Angels* by Denis Johnson (1-64)

2/6: Tracy K. Smith, "My God, It's Full of Stars;" Alex Dimitrov, "Lines for People After the Party;" John Freeman, "You Are Here"

Week 3

2/11: *Angels* by Denis Johnson (65-135)
(Workshop A poems due)

2/13: Workshop A (Poetry)

Week 4

2/18: *Angels* by Denis Johnson (finish the book)
(Workshop B poems due)

2/20: Workshop B (Poetry)
(Workshop C poems due)

Week 5

2/25: Workshop C
(Workshop D poems due)

2/27: Workshop D

Week 6:

3/3: Max Ritvo (selection of poems); Francisco Marquez, "Four Sonnets on Audience"
(Workshop A due)

3/5: Joy Williams, "The Country;" Rebecca Lee, "Settlers"
(Workshop B due)

Week 7:

3/10: Workshop A (fiction)

3/12: Workshop B (fiction)

Week 8:

3/17-No Class

3/19-No Class

(Workshops C & D, please email the entire class your work by this date.)

Week 9

3/24: Workshop C (fiction)

3/26: Workshop D (fiction)

Week 10:

3/31: Jorie Graham, "Expecting;" Angel Nafiz, "Ghazal for Becoming Your Own Country;" Natalie Diaz, "It was the Animals"

4/2: Michael Byers, "Faking Shapely Fiction;" Rachel Carson, "Wonder"

(Workshop A due)

Week 11:

4/7: David Wojnarovicz, "Close to the Knives;" Chris Adrian, "A Child's Book of Sickness and Death,"

4/9: Workshop A

(Workshop B due)

Week 12

4/14: Terrance Hayes, "Mystic Bounce;" John Ashberry, "Breezeway;" Dylan Krieger, "Giving Godhead"

4/16: Workshop B

(Workshop C due)

Week 13:

4/21: Laura van den Berg, "I Looked for You, I Called Your Name;" Richard Ford, "Rock Springs"

4/23: Workshop C

(Workshop D due)

Week 14:

4/28: Revision Readings

4/30: Workshop D

Final Portfolio due in class