

## **Creative Writing: Introduction to Fiction and Poetry**

**Instructor:** Jesse Bennett Stokes

**Office hours by appointment**

### **Course overview:**

The purpose of this class is to read and study fiction and poetry in order to make our own poems and stories. We will read in order to understand how to write. We will write in order to workshop. The readings will suggest models for us to imitate and our discussions will suggest how to apply these mechanics to our own work. The workshop is where we share and edit our own work.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To write poems and stories
2. To identify and analyze the techniques used in the readings
3. To understand and apply these techniques to our own work and feedback in a workshop
4. To communicate clearly and effectively in order to maximize the potential of our own work

### **Structure:**

The first half of the semester we will read and write poetry. The second half we will read and write fiction.

The first class of every week will be focused solely on the assigned reading. There will be a discussion of the craft elements each author is known for and if we can imitate them effectively. This will be followed by an in class writing exercise in response to our discussion. This class is only successful with your participation. Come ready to discuss.

The second class of the week will be our workshop. Students will bring in their poems and stories as well as a copy for everyone in the class including me. The student author will read their own work and the class will provide professional and helpful feedback both written and spoken. There will be an opportunity for the student author to ask questions after the discussion.

### **Required text:**

A student packet will be provided with the necessary readings.

### **Policies:**

#### **Grading**

Attendance and participation	40%
Written response	30%
Final Portfolio	25%
Recitation	5%

#### **Attendance**

This class is only possible with participation. If you aren't there you won't do well. You have to be there, and you have to participate. Two unexcused absences will result in a reduction in your grade. If you're early you're on time and if you're on time you're late.

#### **Plagiarism**

If you didn't write it I don't want to see it. Don't do it. NYU's policy is strict and I will follow it.

## **Electronics**

No phones. Put them on silent. Turn them off. I don't want to hear them and I don't want to see them.  
You may take notes with a computer.

### **Schedule:**

- Week 1: Craft-**Frank O'Hara and Guillaume Apollinaire  
**Practice Workshop-** Students bring response poems
- Week 2: Craft-** Pablo Neruda and Cesar Vallejo  
**Workshop-** Students bring response poems
- Week 3: Craft-** C. P. Cavafy  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response poems
- Week 4: Craft-** Ada Limon  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response poems
- Week 5: Craft-** Sharon Olds  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response poems
- Week 6: Craft-** Katherine Barnette  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response poems
- Week 7: Craft-** Edward Hirsch  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response poems
- Week 8: Craft-** Richard Wright and Basho  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response poems
- Week 9: Craft-** Jorge Luis Borges  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response poems/prose
- Week 10: Craft-**Franz Kafka  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response story
- Week 11: Craft-** Anton Chekhov  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response story
- Week 12: Craft-** Ottessa Moshfegh  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response story
- Week 13: Craft-** Roberto Bolano  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response story
- Week 14: Craft-**Taeko Kono  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response story
- Week 15: Craft-** Alice Munro  
**Workshop-** Students bring in response story
- Week 16: Class Reading**