INTRODUCTION

Note: This class is designed to be entirely online. Reading is the first art of the writer. Reading is a writer’s way of listening: listening that has no purpose rather than your own pleasure and your own purpose. A writer’s reading is a personal reading. Reading is, simply, the observation and appreciation of other voices. You build a home when you read. Reading is much like looking at a landscape: ancient, allusive, and wholly imbued with both its past and present. You may find that you want to sit on a ridge that way, or put your feet in a creek this way. Eventually, you will find where you want to live amongst these voices and who you want to invite in. It is not that you own the land, the water, or the sky, but you make a place for yourself because you can be a part of it. As you witness literature, you can also grow your own outlook and voice within it. Reading becomes a practice of situation. Writing is what comes of that reading.

In this class, you will relearn how to read and write in service of a lifelong creative practice beyond this group. You will take part in creating a learning community that will make these goals possible for yourself and for others. Together, we will explore and practice the instruments of language. We will examine and try different approaches to different problems in making this art over time. And we will read and write together.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Virginia Woolf – The Waves (1931)
Theresa Hak Kyung Cha – Dictee (1982)
Robin Coste Lewis – Voyage of the Sable Venus and Other Poems (2015)
Layli Long Soldier – Whereas (2017)
Selected readings (indicated by *) likely to include Kim Hyesoon, Bhanu Kapil, Erica Hunt, Maggie Nelson, Gloria Anzaldúa, and more – online in Classes