

Creative Writing: Introduction to Poetry & Fiction

CRWRI-UA.815.011

FALL 2019

Instructor: Nancy Huang

Monday/Wednesday: 12:30-1:45

Email: njh316@nyu.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Overview

Hello and welcome! I am so pleased to have you here. In this class, we will explore both contemporary literature from a craft perspective, as well as write and workshop your own stories and poems. This class is meant to be generative, and hopefully by the end of the semester you will all walk away with strong first drafts of poetry, fiction, and hybrid works.

General Structure

This course will give you a more concrete sense of fiction and poetry. Our Mondays will be devoted to discussing the required texts from a “craft” perspective. In class, you will be expected to have done the reading, and come prepared with a brief written response to the assigned work (1-3 paragraphs). You will hand in these responses to me at the end of class.

On Wednesdays we will workshop your own stories and poems. Over the course of the semester, everyone will workshop at least two stories and three poems. When it’s your turn to submit your writing for workshop, you will be required to print out individual copies for the entire class and hand these out a week before your assigned workshop date. Additionally, for each person that we workshop, you will write and print two copies of your critique letter addressed to that person. You will give one letter to the person being workshopped, and one to me.

For workshop, please be generous and constructive. The feedback you give is important to your classmates’ development as writers.

Final Portfolio

At the end of the semester, you will submit a final portfolio of the revised three pieces you have workshopped. These three pieces must have significant revisions. If you choose to do the extra credit assignment, please include it in the portfolio. Create a cover page by choosing a title and an image for your portfolio that you feels captures what you’ve created here.

Office Hours

By appointment. You are required to meet with me at least once during the semester.

Grading

Attendance and participation 40%
Weekly responses and letters 30%
Final portfolio 30%

Plagiarism

Don't do it. I will be required to report you. The work you generate for this class will not be graded on how talented you are, but rather how you engage and promote dialogue with texts, including your own. The pressure's off, so please don't steal.

Student Wellness Policy

Unless there is explicit evidence in workshop that the speaker of a work is the writer themselves, we assume the speaker is fictional. Certain content relating to murder, depression, suicide, sexual assault, or severe mental distress 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 reach out to me, and I can direct you to the NYU Wellness Center.

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 register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980, or at 726 Broadway (2nd floor) or at www.nyu.edu/csd.

Course Schedule

WK	DATE	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK
1	09/09	Review syllabus	Read <i>The Specialist's Hat</i> by Kelly Link Come prepared & ready to discuss
	09/11	Practice Workshop Submissions due from Group 1	Workshop Group 1 Come prepared to discuss reading
2	09/16	Discuss <i>The Specialist's Hat</i> : <i>Metaphor</i>	Read <i>On the Seventh Dave</i> , Alexander Met the Deer King Write reading response
	09/18	Workshop Group 1	Critique Workshop Group 1

		Submissions due from Group 2	
3	09/23	Discuss Seventh Dave: <i>(Un)Realism</i>	Read Octavia's Brood selection & Danez Smith Write reading response
	09/25	Workshop Group 2 Submissions due from Group 3	Critique Workshop Group 2
4	09/30	Discuss Octavia's Brood & Smith: <i>Utopic realities</i>	Read/Watch Franny Choi & Janae Johnson Write reading response
	10/02	Workshop Group 3 Submissions due from Group 1	Critique Workshop Group 3
5	10/07	Discuss Choi & Johnson: <i>What's in a name?</i>	Read Talin Tahajian's Movie Star with Vanilla Milkshake Write reading response
	10/09	Workshop Group 1 Submissions due from Group 2	Critique Workshop Group 1
6	10/14	Discuss Tahajian: <i>Absurdism</i>	Read 17776 Write reading response
	10/16	Workshop Group 2 Submissions due from Group 3	Critique Workshop Group 2
7	10/21	Discuss 17776: <i>Multimedia Literacy</i>	Read Kristin Chang Write reading response
	10/23	Workshop Group 3 Submissions due from Group 1	Critique Workshop Group 3
8	10/28	Discuss Chang: <i>Persona(s)</i>	Read Jenny Zhang essays Write reading response
	10/30	Workshop Group 1 Submissions due from Group 2	Critique Workshop Group 1
9	11/04	Discuss Zhang: <i>Dreams</i>	Read Sharon Olds & Sylvia Plath Write reading response
	11/06	Workshop Group 2 Submissions due from Group 3	Critique Workshop Group 2
10	11/11	Discuss Olds & Plath: <i>Poetry of separation</i>	Read Bottomless Pit by Henry Hoke & Brenda Hillman collection

			Write reading response
	11/13	Workshop Group 3 Submissions due from Group 1	Critique Workshop Group 3
11	11/18	Discuss Hoke & Hillman: <i>Source materials</i>	Read/Watch Ariana Brown, Curanderismo Write reading response
	11/20	Workshop Group 1 Submissions due from Group 2	Critique Workshop Group 1
12	11/25	Discuss Ariana Brown: <i>Poetical Science</i>	Thanksgiving Break
	11/27	Thanksgiving	
13	12/02	Workshop Group 2 Submissions due from Group 3	Critique Workshop Group 2
	12/04	Workshop Group 3 Final Workshop Roundtable	Critique Workshop Group 3
14	12/09	PORTFOLIO DUE	
	12/11		