

CRWRI - UA.815.012

## **Introduction to Creative Writing: Prose & Poetry**

Fall 2022 Tues/Thurs 12:30pm – 1:45pm

Instructor: Yang Hao (she/they)

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Office hours: by appointment

### **Course Overview**

Welcome to Introduction to Prose & Poetry!

In this semester we'll have a wide variety of reading materials in diverse styles, from writers of all races and backgrounds. No matter what your reaction to a piece might be – love, hate, ambivalence – the class wants to hear your honest thoughts and opinions. Anyone who wants to experiment with genres is encouraged to submit cross-genre, hybrid, or even visual essays. Do not hesitate to submit raw, weird, unpolished drafts. That is what workshops are for.

### **Structure**

We will divide our semester in two sections – reading and workshopping. Most prose materials will be discussed on Tuesdays, and poetry on Thursdays.

### **Coursework and Grading**

#### Participation and Attendance 30%

Since this is a discussion-based class, your participation and attendance are essential. Being late past 15 minutes without notice will be counted as an unexcused absence. If anything comes up, even if you just need a mental health day, please email me. I will

allow two excused absences; any unexcused absence without notice will result in a 5% deduction of your final grade.

### Workshop Submission 20%

There are no hard length requirements. Somewhere between 6-20 pages should be fine. We need time to read and appreciate your work fully, so you're expected to submit one week before your workshop.

Two late works are allowed under the conditions you

- 1) email me at least a day before the work is due
- 2) commit to a new due date

Otherwise, late works will result in a 5% deduction per day they are late.

### Workshop Feedback 20%

Feedback for your peers is a crucial part of the workshops. Your response letters should be thoughtful, generous, and as extensive as possible (1-page min). Please bring two copies to class – one for your classmate and one for me to keep.

### Writing Excise 10%

Throughout the semester I will assign small writing exercises for you here and there. Don't stress over this – it's just something to experiment and have fun with.

### Final Portfolio 20%

We have no exams or finals in this class, just a collection of your hard work from throughout the semester. Put every workshop submission and writing exercise you've done into one, double-spaced word document and email it to me.

## **Plagiarism**

Any plagiarism will result in an automatic fail and will be reported to the department – please, communicate with me if you are having a hard time writing. I’d rather you submit nothing than copy others.

## **Office Hours**

I want to get to know each one of you and your works. Email me to make an appointment so we can chat one-on-one. Each student should meet with me at least once – if you’d like more time, email me and we’ll figure out a schedule!

## **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 <http://www.nyu.edu/csd>.

## **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.

## **Syllabus**

Week One: Welcome, writers!

**Tues, 09/06**

Introduction, assign workshop dates.

**Thurs, 09/08**

Selected poems by Rabindranath Tagore

*The Colonel* by Carolyn Forché

*Putting Myself Together* by Jamaica Kincaid

Week Two: Writing with restraints, and how to love them

**Tues, 09/13**

*Boys* by Rick Moody

Selected pieces from *The Pillow Book* by Sei Shonagen

*Notes Toward the Making of a Human Being* by John D'Agata

**Thurs, 09/15**

Selected poems from:

*Poems (1962-1997)* by Robert Lax

*Sleeping with the Dictionary* by Harryette Mullen

*Ecoeviance: Soma(tics) for the Future Wildreiness* by CAConrad.

Week Three: Writing and breathing in a character

**Tues, 09/20**

*He and I* by Natalia Ginsburg

*Because My Father Always Said He was the Only Indian Who Saw Jimi Hendrix Play "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Woodstock* by Sherman Alexie

*Judy* by Isabelle Rowland Weisz

**Thurs, 09/22**

Selected works from Jack Spicer

*Personalism* by Frank O'Hara

Week Four: Ongoing love, and its later residue

**Tues, 09/27**

*The Golden Cangue* by Eileen Chang

Selected parts from *The War* by Marguerite Duras

**Thurs, 09/29**

Selected poems by Carlos Drummond de Andre

*A Brief Attachment* by Cate Marvin

Week Five: Writing of the unspeakable weight

**Tues, 10/04**

Selected parts from *Heavy* by Kiese Leymon

*Hey Mama* by Kiese Leymon

**Thurs, 10/06**

Selected poems by Amiri Baraka and Yusef Komunyakaa,

First half of *In Mad Love and War* by Joy Harjo.

Week Six: Voice of the land and her people

**Tues, 10/11**

Second half of *In Mad Love and War*

**Thurs, 10/13**

*Ocean Power* by Ofelia Zepeda

Week Seven: The passed ones

**Tues, 10/18**

*Matricide* by Meghan Duam

*Variations on Grief* by Meghan Duam

**Thurs, 10/20**

*Don't let me be Lonely* by Claudia Rankine

**Group A round 1 submission due**

Week Eight: Her side of the story

**Tues, 10/25**

*Signified* by Susan Steinberg

*Agnes of Iowa* by Lorrie Moore

*No Name Woman* by Maxine Hong Kingston

Group B round 1 submission due

**Thurs, 10/27**

Group A round 1 Workshop

Group C round 1 submission due

Week Nine: Workshop

**Tues, 11/01**

Group B round 1

Group D round 1 submission due

**Thurs, 11/03**

Group C round 1

Group A round 2 submission due

Week Ten: Workshop

**Tues, 11/08**

Group D round 1

Group B round 2 submission due

**Thurs, 11/10**

Group A round 2

Group C round 2 submission due

Week Eleven: Workshop

**Tues, 11/15**

Group B round 2

Group D round 2 submission due

**Thurs, 11/17**

Group C round 2

Group A round 3 submission due

Week Twelve: Workshop

**Tues, 11/22**

Group D round 2

Group B round 3 submission due

**Thurs, 11/24**

Group A round 3

Group C round 3 submission due

Week Thirteen: Workshop

**Tues, 11/29**

Group B round 3

Group D round 3 submission due

**Thurs, 12/01**

Group C round 3

Week Fourteen: You made it!

**Tues, 12/05**

Group D round 3

**Thurs, 12/08**

Last Class – Bring snacks so we can party ☺