Creative Writing: Introduction to Fiction and Poetry  
CRWRI-UA 815 001  
M/W 1:30 PM - 4:40 PM  
Location: 194 Mercer, Room 201

Instructor: Isabelle Philippe  
Email: ip723@nyu.edu  
Office Hours: M/W 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM TBD

Course Overview

A good piece of writing wakes us up. It alerts our senses to new understandings of the world, of ourselves. This class will aim to discover how writers accomplish such daring feats by engaging with critical texts, your own work, and that of your peers. Over the course of six weeks, we will 1) uncover how elements of craft embed a story in our memories long after we’ve read it, 2) decipher meaning from words, and 3) most importantly, learn how to apply these tools to your own work. By the end of the course, I hope that you will gain new confidence in your abilities as readers, critical thinkers, and storytellers.

This class consists of both a craft and workshop component. Mondays will be dedicated to fiction, Wednesdays to poetry. During craft, we will analyze assigned readings and focus on a central theme. In workshop, we will spend time with each other’s work and provide thoughtful, stimulating feedback that is meant to benefit the author. Each week, I ask that you find 2-3 sentences that stood out to you as you read, for better or worse. Please come to class prepared to share your sentences and discuss why you liked or disliked them. As you continue to do this, you will begin to notice patterns where you feel your attention waning, what makes a sentence come to life, and what sections make you want to grab a pen and begin writing at that very moment.

Workshop and Etiquette

Each student will workshop 2 poems and 2 stories.  
➢ Fiction submissions are due one week in advance in order to provide ample time for myself and your peers to read the piece, twice. An ideal submission will range between 5-15 pages.  
➢ Poetry submissions are due the Friday before you are scheduled to workshop. An ideal submission will range between 2-5 pages.

In providing feedback, please arrive with two copies of a one page (3-5 paragraphs), double spaced letter - one for me and one for your fellow workshopers.

Writing is an ongoing, laborious effort. It is improved with consistency, reading all that you can get ahold of, and being attentive to the world around you. With that being said, we are all learning how to strengthen our craft and improve our writing. When we meet, it will be at
different stages in our journey and that is part of the fun! That is the discovery of writing. One of the greatest feelings is being in a room where you feel comfortable and supported to ask questions about your work, volunteer ideas for your peers' work, and learn how to then assess your own material with the same eye. We can only do this by being kind and respectful to one another. Feedback should be constructive and advantageous, noting successful parts of a story and then what might be improved.

Attendance (20%) and Participation (20%)

It is imperative to be present and punctual to class - our time is limited. With only 12 sessions together, please try your hardest not to miss a day. In the event that something comes up (life happens) and you are unable to make it to class, please let me know as soon as possible. Unexcused absences and late arrivals will affect your grade.

➢ Arriving more than twenty minutes late without explanation will count as an absence.
➢ After two unexcused absences, each additional absence will lower your final grade by half a letter.

The foundation of our class is built on discussion. We will have group and partner based activities that work to build familiarity with each other. It is not only necessary that you attend class but that you arrive prepared to be mentally present and ready to engage with the material and your classmates. My expectation is that you are always working to put your best foot forward which means offering insightful analysis on readings during our craft sessions and providing constructive comments during workshop. As a writer being workshopped, it is expected that you are receptive to your peers’ comments and maintain an optimistic attitude. Our environment is the construction of energy, and I would like us all to positively contribute to it.

Writing Assignments (20%)

There will be three writing assignments over the course of the summer. This is an exciting opportunity to really engage with the texts and explore different modes of your writing in terms of structure, voice, and overall style. Experiment! I encourage you to have fun with these and draw inspiration from the readings or imitate a particular device you might have enjoyed. These assignments can also be workshopped if you find that you would like to continue refining and developing a particular story.

Final Portfolio (40%)

Your final portfolio will consist of all your submissions from workshop (2 poetry pieces, 2 prose pieces), your written assignments, and will include two revised workshop pieces, one poem and one story.

Electronics In Class
We want to be as fully engaged with each other as we can at all times! For this reason, I ask that electronic use be limited during class time, meaning phones should always be silenced and put away and no laptops permitted during workshop. For craft, you may use a laptop or tablet for note taking purposes only though I encourage you to write by hand.

NYU's Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism of any kind is not tolerated and will be reported to the department without exception. Just don’t do it. If you ever have any concern about completing an assignment, please reach out to me and we will find a solution.

Office Hours

Please come and see me - I’d like to see you! We will aim for two office hour sessions over the course of our six weeks but of course, you are welcome to schedule more. To arrange, send me an email, and we can coordinate a date and time within the time frame listed above.

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

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.

Schedule

<p>| May 22 | Fiction: Leads and Expectation | In Class: Jamaica Kincaid “Girl,” Jhumpa Lahiri “A Temporary Matter,” “Junot Diaz “How to Date a Brown Girl (Black Girl, White Girl, or Halfie)” |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Reading Response #1 Due - June 4th</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
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<td>Memorial Day: No Class</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
<td>Fiction: Character &amp; Dialogue</td>
<td>Toni Morrison <em>Sula</em></td>
<td>Workshop B: Fiction</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>Poetry: Style &amp; Voice</td>
<td>Ocean Vuong “Not Even This,” Frank O’Hara “The Day Lady Died,” “E.E. Cummings “Since Feeling is First” Anne Sexton “Live or Die” Workshop C: Poetry</td>
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<td>June 14</td>
<td>Fiction: World Building</td>
<td>Yoko Tawada <em>The Emissary</em></td>
<td>Workshop A: Fiction</td>
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<td>June 19</td>
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<td>Juneteenth: No Class</td>
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Reading Response #2 Due - June 18th
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fiction: Style &amp; Voice</th>
<th>Poetry: Repetition &amp; Application</th>
<th>Workshop C: Fiction</th>
<th>Workshop A: Poetry</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Elfriede Jelinek <em>The Piano Teacher</em> (excerpts), Aimee Bender “Off”</td>
<td>Fieldtrip!</td>
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<td>June 28</td>
<td>Reading Response #2 Due - July 2nd</td>
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<td>July 3</td>
<td>Fiction: Setting</td>
<td><em>Giovanni’s Room</em> (excerpts)</td>
<td>Workshop B: Fiction</td>
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<td>July 5</td>
<td>Last Day!</td>
<td>Workshop C: Poetry</td>
<td>Goodbye party and snacks! <strong>Final Portfolio due.</strong></td>
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