Creative Writing: Introduction to Fiction and Poetry
CRWRI-UA.815, Section 001
MW: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Instructor: Taylor Cornelius (she/her)
Office Hours: By appointment
Contact: taylormcornelius@gmail.com

Course Overview
This aim of this course is to provide a creative roadmap for aspiring writers. Throughout the semester, students will participate in reading, writing, and discussing both fiction and poetry. We will explore how and why certain stories and poems are exciting, inspiring, or attention grabbing. We will write our own stories and poems! We will delve into the minds of other writers, and discuss elements of style. We will foster a workshop space to support each other’s work. Essentially, this class will provide an overview of genre, as well as a deep exploration of creative process.

Course Structure
This course will be divided equally between craft and workshop. One class session per week we will discuss a diverse array of writers and discern what makes their work notable (or potentially, not notable). The other class session per week will be devoted to workshop. All students will be-workshopped FIVE times throughout the semester.

Craft Class
On Monday each week we will devote our time to craft. Each week students are expected to complete the assigned reading and come to class prepared for discussion. Participating in class is an important aspect of generating new ideas and engaging with the material, and this will be a significant portion of your final grade. All readings will be available online. Additionally, students are expected to bring a short written response engaging with the reading each week. Responses should be 2-3 paragraphs in Time New Roman 12pt font, double spaced. Responses are due on Monday in class (9:30am) each week.

Workshop
On Wednesday every week we will turn our attention to workshopping each other’s poems and stories.* Each group will submit their pieces one week in advance of their workshop. Please bring copies for the entire class.
In order to gain the most insight and constructive feedback, all students should expect to come to workshop prepared for thoughtful conversation. Students are required to submit written comments on one another’s pieces. Please bring two copies of comments—one for the writer
being workshopped and one for me. Comments should include your observations about the piece, elements you enjoyed, and elements you think could use some tweaking.

*A Note on Workshop*

The goal of a workshop is to create a space where we can share and discuss our work with care and respect. Workshop feedback should be clear, kind, and thoughtful. It’s always a great idea to ask questions. Pose critiques with sensitivity and curiosity. The aim here is not to lambast one another, but to provide helpful feedback that encourages growth in revisions.

**Final Portfolio**

All students are required to submit a final portfolio at the end of the semester (Due May 10th). This portfolio should consist of at least FIVE revised pieces taking into consideration feedback received from peers and from me during workshop and in written comments.

**Grading**

Grades will be divided as follows:

- **Assignments and reading**— 25%
  This includes weekly reading assignments and the 10 weekly reading responses.
- **Workshop Pieces**— 25%
  This includes all creative assignments due for workshop.
- **Final Portfolio**— 25%
  A final collection of revised pieces to be handed in at the end of the semester.
- **Participation**— 25%
  This includes attendance, class discussion, and office hours.

**Attendance Policy**

Because this class is focused on discussion and creative feedback, attendance is vital. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and ready for discussion. More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your grade.

**Office Hours**

All students are required to meet with me at least twice in the course of the semester for one on one office hours. Office hours can be scheduled either remotely or in person. Contact me via email: taylormcornelius@gmail.com

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Don’t plagiarize! If you find yourself falling behind or struggling with work, please talk to me and we will find a solution. For more information on NYU’s plagiarism policy you can refer to the Academic Integrity page under the University’s
Policies and Guidelines.

**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.

**Electronics in Class**
Normally, I would not allow electronics in class, however, given the extenuating circumstances due to Covid-19, I understand electronic use may be necessary. This being said, I expect all students attending in-person to come to class with printed copies of course materials.

**Course Calendar**

**Monday 2/1** - Course Introduction and Syllabus overview, workshop groups assigned.

**Wednesday 2/3** - Fiction Introduction

Readings: Annie Proulx - *Inspiration? Head Down the Back Road and Stop for Yard Sales*
Kent Haruf - *To See Your Story Clearly Start By Pulling the Wool Over Your Own Eyes*
Ann Lamott - *13 Writing Tips, From Beloved Teacher Ann Lamott*

**Due: Group A distributes poems**
Monday 2/8 - Poetry Introduction
Readings: Mary Oliver - *A Poetry Handbook*, “Introduction,” “Getting Ready” and “Reading Poems”
Adrienne Rich - *Someone is Writing a Poem*
**Due: Reading response #1**

Wednesday 2/10 - Workshop (Group A)
**Due: Group A comments. Group B distributes poems.**

Monday 2/15 - PRESIDENT’S DAY, NO CLASS

Wednesday 2/17 - Workshop (Group B)
**Due: Group B Comments. Group C distributes poems.**

Monday 2/22 - Fiction Craft: Character
Readings: Jhumpa Lahiri - *The Interpreter of Maladies*
        Flannery O’Connor - *A Good Man is Hard to Find*
**Due: Reading Response #2**

Wednesday 2/24 - Workshop (Group C)
**Due: Group C Comments. Group A distributes stories.**

Monday 3/1 - Poetry Craft: Image
Readings: Rachel Richardson - *Learning Image and Description*
        Seamus Heaney “the Grabaulle Man”
**Due: Reading Response #3**

Wednesday 3/3 - Workshop (Group A)
**Due: Group A Comments. Group B distributes stories.**

Monday 3/8 - Fiction Craft: Plot
Readings: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - *Apollo*
        Octavia Butler - *Speech Sounds*
**Due: Reading Response #4**

Wednesday 3/10 - Workshop (Group B)
**Due: Group B Comments. Group C distributes stories.**
Monday 3/15 - Poetry Craft: Poetic Devices
Due: Reading Response #5

Wednesday 3/17 - Workshop (Group C)
Due: Group C comments. Group A distributes poems.

Monday 3/22 - Fiction Craft: Point of View
Readings: Joan Didion - *On Keeping a Notebook*
J.D. Salinger - *For Esme, With Love and Squalor*
Zadie Smith - *The Dialectic*
Due: Reading Response #6

Wednesday 3/24 - Workshop (Group A)
Due: Group A comments. Group B distributes poems.

Monday 3/29 - Poetry Craft: Form
Readings: Denise Levertov - *Some Notes on Organic Form*
Tarfia Faizullah - “Infinity Ghazal Beginning with Lice and Never Ending with Lies,” “Aubade Ending with the Death of a Mosquito” Terrance Hayes - “American Sonnet for my past and future assassin [why are you bugging me you stank minuscule husk]” and [I lock you in an American sonnet that is part prison] Elizabeth Bishop - “One Art,” Langston Hughes - “Easy Boogie”
Due: Reading Response #7

Wednesday 3/31 - Workshop (Group B)
Due: Group B comments. Group C distributes poems.

Monday 4/5 - Fiction Craft: Setting
Readings: Jack London - *To Build a Fire*
Sandra Cisneros - *Women Hollering Creek*
Due: Reading Response #8

Wednesday 4/7 - Workshop (Group C)
Due: Group C comments. Group A distributes stories.
Monday 4/12 - Poetry Craft: Ode and Elegy
Due: Reading Response #9

Wednesday 4/14 - Workshop (Group A)
Due: Group A comments. Group B distributes stories.

Monday 4/19 - NO CLASS

Wednesday 4/21 - Workshop (Group B)
Due: Group B comments. Group C distributes stories.

Monday 4/26 - Fiction Craft: Style
Readings: Zadie Smith - *Two Men Arrive in a Village*
Tobias Wolff - *Bullet to the Brain*
Due: Reading Response #10

Wednesday 4/28 - Workshop (Group C)
Due: Group C comments. Groups A and B distribute pieces.

Monday 5/3 - Poetry Craft: Ars Poetica
Due: Group C distributes pieces. No reading response due this week.

Wednesday 5/5 - Workshop (Group A and B)
Due: Group A and B comments

Thursday 5/6 - Workshop (Group B and C)
Due: Group B and C comments.

Monday 5/10 - Final Class and Celebratory Reading
Due: Final Portfolio