

NYU WRITERS IN NEW YORK SUMMER INTENSIVE SYLLABUS 2021

Mondays and Wednesday 2:30-5PM

Instructor: Matthew Rohrer
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THE GENERATIVE PROJECT ***Course description and Objectives***

This course will introduce students to the idea of writing as a long-term process. We will look at poems by a wide range of poets who engage in self-generating projects and we will look at this phenomenon as a way to approach our own writing. There will be daily readings that examine different methods of generating writing, including poems by Percy Bysshe Shelley, Claude McKay, Matthew Zapruder, Anne Sexton and many others. The class will consist of in-class and take-home writing exercises based on the readings for the week, and discussion thereof. By the end of the course, students will have developed their own extended, generative project to carry them into the Unknown.

Requirements

You will only receive one grade for the program, and my half of it will be based on:

- In-class participation, including attendance. This is 75% of your grade. This means being an active participant in our discussions and doing the writing exercises.
- Each of you should come to class ready to discuss the reading for that week. You'll hand in 3-5 critical discussion questions about the reading, along with your answers to them. As a guideline, use the general topic for each class to guide your questions. Be analytical, look closely at structure, methods, techniques, etc . This is your opportunity to show me you've read and thought about the poems & essays while focusing on what interests you most in them. (You'll turn these short essays in by uploading them to "forums" on NYUClasses.)
- Required Textbooks: (we'll read them in this order, so you can plan your book orders accordingly; check schedule on next page for specific dates)
 - Jon Woodward, Rain, Wave
 - Ted Berrigan, The Sonnets, Penguin
 - Simone Muench, Wolf Centos, Sarabande Books
 - Jen Bervin, Nets, Ugly Duckling Presse
 - Mary Ruefle, A Little White Shadow, Wave
 - Tom Philips, A Humument
 - Chase Berggrun, RED, Birds LLC
 - CAConrad, A Beautiful Marsupial Afternoon, Wave
 - All other readings will be on NYUClasses

Schedule –Have the following books read, and your brief essays ready to hand in, on the day indicated, below: **note: no essays due on day 1!**

CLASS	READINGS
1 June 2	Introduction to the Generative Project: Zapruder (Noelle poems)/ Berrigan poem w/explanation; Jeff Tweedy quote
2 June 4	Traditional Forms: Shelley, McKay, Sexton (sonnets) Bishop, (villanelle) Khalvati (ghazal)
3 June 7	Non-Traditional Forms: Woodward
4 June 9	False Translation: Cameron poems and afterward
5 June 14	Cut-ups/Collage: Berrigan essay and THE SONNETS; Muench WOLF CENTOS <i>Students: have lines of poems (yours or others') already cut up</i>
6 June 16	Erasures: Bervin/Ruefle/Berggrun <i>Also see under "Resources" – several web interviews</i>
7 June 21	Games: Yau (vowel sonatas and title poem); Cathy Park Hong (2 ballads); OULIPO example <i>Also see under "Resources" – a 3 part YouTube documentary on OULIPO</i>
8 June 23	CAConrad Final Class: wrap up/students present their plans for projects