

ENGS 51: Writing the Real World with Creativity

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ENGS 51 Z1 CRN 61889

ENGS 51 Z2 CRN 61895

9:00 am – 3:30 pm MWRF Lafayette Hall L102 July 3, 2023 – July 07, 2023

9:00 am – 3:30 pm MTWF Lafayette Hall L102 July 10, 2023 – July 14, 2023

Online: July 15, 2023 – July 28, 2023

Office hours:

311 Old Mill by appointment

I'm finding faith in writers who at least attempt to engage with a complicated honesty.

Hanif Abdurraqib

Course Description and Objectives

In this class we will attempt to engage with what the poet, essayist, and cultural critic Hanif Abdurraqib refers to as “a complicated honesty.” We will trouble ideas of the “real” and the “creative” as we focus on the development of personal style and voice in writing that explores social, cultural, and political issues.

The class is organized around student work. There will be daily writing assignments and revisions. You will be required, for instance, to explore such diverse forms as the prose poem, the monologue, and the lyric essay. We'll workshop student writing on a regular basis. Vigorous and thoughtful class participation is required. We will examine the work of contemporary poets and writers such as Hua Hsu, Eileen Myles, and Claudia Rankine in order to further understand our own work and the creative process. We will also consider the role of writing in contemporary American culture.

Welcome to the conversation and a writing community! You may be an experienced writer or perhaps you've never written a poem, but you must be willing to consider yourself a writer (and a reader) for the duration of this course. The final for this course is a manuscript of revised work. Throughout the semester you will be asked to carefully consider what it means to create and compose a body of work—a public document that responds not only to your own experience, but also to the world at large. A dedication to craft, aesthetic innovation, and risk-taking is expected of writers in this course.

Required Texts

Postcolonial Love Poem Natalie Diaz

The Book of Delights Ross Gay

Alive at the End of the World Saeed Jones

You will also be responsible for supplemental materials including individual poems, critical essays, podcasts, etc.

Reading and Writing

In the event you are absent, you are responsible for getting the assignment. The following is a brief outline of the required assignments. We will discuss the details and objectives of each assignment in class.

*You are required to read the texts and be prepared to discuss them. You are expected to read the entire text (unless notified otherwise) and to **bring the text with you to class on the day of discussion.**

*Creative writing assignment/revisions

*Participate fully in workshop (and submit your work for discussion when scheduled to do so)

*Final manuscript of revised work

Requirements and Grading: Regular attendance, full participation, and turning in all work on time are basic requirements. I am happy to meet with you on an individual basis, and I encourage you to meet with me whenever you feel it may be beneficial to your work.

Grading Criteria:

Each of the following will constitute roughly one quarter of your grade:

*Class participation

*Creative writing assignments/revision

*Presentation

* Final manuscript

Student Accessibility Services: If you require accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible so we can collaboratively develop a plan for you.

Religion: You have the right to practice the religion of your choice. Please inform me if a religious holiday will conflict with class. We can make arrangements for completing any missed class work.

Laptops and Cell Phones: You may bring both to class as long as they are turned OFF at the beginning of class and remain so throughout. Texting during class is both disruptive and disrespectful. It demonstrates that you are not engaged with the class. If texting is a persistent problem, you will receive an academic warning.

Integrity: All students should familiarize themselves with the *Code of Academic Integrity* from the UVM Center for Student Ethics and Standards. I am responsible for

reporting any suspected violations of the Code of Ethics, including plagiarism, to the Center for Student Ethics and Standards. The standard sanction at UVM in cases of intentional plagiarism is a grade of XF in the course.

I look forward to the work we will be engaged in together. Welcome!