Poetry of Place

Syllabus

Instructor
Dina Elenbogen

Email
dinaelenbogen@uchicago.edu

Modality
Remote learning

Quarter: Spring
Start – end date: March 30 – May 18
Session day/time: Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM CT
Course Code and Section: WRIT12301 22S1

Course Overview

What influence does place, both real and imagined, have on our writing? How does writing help us keep and transform our childhood memories and homes? How do the invisible maps of our experience stand as templates for our own writing?

In this four-week course we will explore everything from rooms, to sacred spaces, to cities and maps of our childhood landscapes. Students will create new poems with the help of writing prompts and reading texts by writers for whom a sense of place transforms their work.

Class will consist of in-class writing exercises, the results of which will be shared with others in an informal manner. We will discuss assigned readings both about writing place and actual poetry and prose that relies on place to deepen or create meaning.

During the fourth and final class, student writing will be critiqued in a more formal manner during workshop. Each student will have 1-3 poems critiqued by students and by the instructor. Copies of this will be distributed to instructor and classmates one week in advance.

My hope is that throughout this course you will plant seeds for future poems about place and complete a solid draft of at least one poem inspired by place.

Required texts

W.t.pfefferle Poets on Place (Utah State) 978-0874215977
The instructor will provide links to other assigned poems
Books can be purchased online through the University of Chicago Bookstore.

Course readings

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Rooms and Sacred Spaces</td>
<td>Text: Strand and Gregerson</td>
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<td>Other: Poems by Forche, Bishop, Li-Young Lee</td>
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<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Assignment</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Maps of Childhood Landscapes</td>
<td>Text: Rios, Peter Cooley, Dove, Volkman Other: TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Urban Writing/Nature Writing</td>
<td>Text: Richard Tillinghast,=David St. John, Revell and Keelan Other: TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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**Accessibility information**

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

**Accessing remote courses**

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately one week before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: https://canvas.uchicago.edu.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu