Course Description
The objective for this course is to help you become stronger writers through reading, discussion, and writing in class and on assignment. Every week, we will study and discuss fiction and poetry of various times, places, and styles to stretch our collective imagination and show you a breadth of techniques to borrow and break. You will write short stories and poems in reaction to your readings. We will workshop half of these assignments, honing our collaboration skills by offering and receiving constructive feedback aloud and in writing. By the end of this course, you should have a notebook full of writing, techniques, and potential sources of inspiration that you can take with you as a reader and writer in the greater community.

Class Format
Mondays: We will discuss our weekly readings and what we can take from them as writers. Conversation allowing, we will write in class to practice using various techniques and sources of inspiration. Everyone will turn in their homework from the previous week, and the workshop team will distribute their submissions to the class.

Wednesdays: We will workshop the writing submitted and introduce the reading and take-home exercise for the next week.

Assignments
Take-Home Writing: Every week, you will write a poem or short story in response to the given prompt and turn it into me. For our purposes, poems should be no more than 3 pages long, single-spaced, legible 12-point font; stories should be no more than 15 pages long, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman.

Workshop: Workshop time is about 10 minutes every two weeks. It is precious. So read submissions carefully, write feedback in advance of class, write more feedback during class, and strive to balance speaking up and stepping back during our discussions. We have two workshop teams, scheduled for alternating weeks. Each team will have a designated time keeper. When it is your team’s turn to workshop, print extra copies of your take-home writing to give to your classmates on the Monday before your workshop date.

Weekly Reading: Reading packets will be posted online or distributed in-class. You are responsible for printing the reading materials in advance of class. Come prepared to discuss techniques that we can use in our own writing.

Midterm Book Report: Responding to a selected or collected volume of poetry or short stories by an author of your choice, write a short paper on what their writing does and how, 1-2 pages.

Final Portfolio: Submit 10-20 pages of revised writing that you did for this class, including at least one short story and one poem. Preface your portfolio with a 1-page personal statement on what your writing does and how.
Additional: Micro reading responses and quizzes will be assigned if needed to fuel our craft discussions.

Grading
Your creative assignments are graded based on participation. This means take-home writing should engage with the prompt and be turned in on time, in the proper format, to receive full credit. You should show up for workshop regardless of whether you submitted writing. Your final portfolio should show some growth based on the feedback you received and what you learned from your craft readings. Your book report and personal statement will also be graded on clarity.

Take-Home Writing — 20%
Workshop — 30%
Class Participation (reading discussion, in-class writing, additional assignments) — 10%
Midterm Book Report — 20%
Final Portfolio — 20% (personal statement: 10%, portfolio: 10%)

Policies & Procedures
Attendance: Unexcused absences will detract from your grade.

Tardiness: Show up on time. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be counted as absent.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is punishable by disciplinary action.

Technology: Computers are not generally allowed in class, and phones should only be used by the designated time keeper during workshop.

Food & Drink: Drinks are welcome but please eat food before or after class.

Wellness: As an NYU employee, it is procedure for me to refer students to the Wellness Center when they express thoughts of self-harm or violence verbally or in writing. Please be aware that, if something like this arises, I will reach out to students privately but may be required to share information with NYU’s healthcare providers.

Schedule
Wednesday, January 25 - Sample workshop of one poem and one short story. Continued introductions: in-class writing and mandatory sharing.
Wednesday, February 8 - Workshop
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Wednesday, February 15 - Substitute Day - Workshop
Monday, February 20 - NO CLASS - Happy President’s Day
Wednesday, February 22 - Substitute Day - Workshop
Wednesday, March 1 - Workshop
Wednesday, March 8 - Workshop
Monday, March 13 - Wednesday March 15 - NO CLASS - Spring Break
Wednesday, March 29 - Workshop
Wednesday, April 5 - Workshop
Wednesday, April 12 - Workshop
Wednesday, April 19 - Workshop
Wednesday, April 26 - Workshop
Monday, May 1 - Revision and editing. Carver. Whitman.
Wednesday, May 2 - Workshop
Monday, May 8 - FINAL DAY - Final portfolio progress discussion. In-class writing.
Friday, May 12 - Final Portfolio due in my mailbox 12-noon