Overview:

In poems, we can rediscover the strangeness of the world and our selves, and we can make new worlds and new selves. In this Workshop, we will not only read a lot of exciting and beautiful poetry, both very new work as well as work tracing back to 17th century Japan, 18th century England, 9th century China, up to 20th century America. You will read several recent exciting volumes of poetry. We will also see how our own writing relates to this work and how we can learn from it. We will do many, many in-class writing exercises that will introduce you to different ways of experiencing the world, the self, and the imagination through language. You will leave with your knowledge of prosody, form, currents of poetry throughout history, and most importantly your own body of work considerably broadened. And of course, a significant amount of time will be spent each class focusing on and critiquing poems written by students. We will look at your work closely and with an eye not only to improving each poem but also always keeping in mind the exciting prospect of the Next Poem, the next world, the next self.

Required Books:

The Book of Forms Lewis Turco (UPNE)
The Essential Haiku ed. Robert Hass (Ecco)
Late Into the Night Yannis Ritsos (Oberlin College Press)
One Hundred Poems From the Chinese trans. Kenneth Rexroth (New Directions)
24 Pages and Other Poems Lisa Fishman (Wave Books)
House of Lords and Commons Ishion Hutchinson (FSG)
Breezeway John Ashbery (Ecco)
Doveglion: Collected Poems by Jose Garcia Villa (Penguin)
Complete Poems Marianne Moore (Penguin)
The Complete Poems 1927-1979 Elizabeth Bishop (FSG)
The Pedestrians Rachel Zucker (Wave Books)
The Welcome David Friedman (Illinois)

These books will be available at the NYU Bookstore.

NOTE: YOU MUST BUY THE REAL, PHYSICAL, PRINTED BOOK. NO E-BOOKS. NO KINDLE VERSIONS. NO TABLET VERSIONS. ETC.

Requirements:

Review:
Each of you will be asked to review a book of American poetry written in the past five years. You will read the book, write a brief review (500 words or so), and give a brief (five minute or so) talk to the class about the book. I’ll give you a list of books to give you some ideas about what might be good to review.

**Recitation:**
Each of you will memorize and recite a poem of at least 14 lines written prior to the year 1900 (unless you get permission from me to memorize a later poem).

**Attendance:**
Probably the most important element in any writing workshop is the presence and active participation of every student. You must come to every class. If it is absolutely necessary for you to be absent, please tell me as soon as possible. If you miss class, contact me with questions about homework only as a last resort. You should make contact with a classmate and get the makeup work from them. Otherwise, see me during my office hours for questions. That is not to say that I do not welcome your input and questions via email--but though I will try to get back to you in a timely fashion, I can’t guarantee that I will get back to you instantly.

**Grading:**
Attendance/Participation: 70%
Recitation/Review: 15%
Take home writing assignments: 15%