

SENIOR WRITERS' SEMINAR, LEVEL 4 (W235434)

Senior Writers' Seminar is year-long writing course designed for students who wish to further develop their writing skills by experimenting with the literary techniques of creative nonfiction. Through informal writing exercises, students will develop a daily habit of writing in a writer's notebook. For formal process writing, students can expect to work with a variety of non-fiction forms including the personal essay, memoir, place-based writing, opinion editorials, speeches, and talks.

Instead of approaching literature strictly as readers, students will approach literature primarily as writers learning craft. Students will read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts to discover and analyze writers' choices and techniques that they can incorporate into their own writing. Students should expect to share their writing with their peers and participate in writers' workshops where students will develop the ability to evaluate their own and others' writing based on the writer's purpose and intended audience. To ensure the safety of the writing community, it is expected that students will respect the confidentiality of their peers' writing.

Core texts: *This Boy's Life* (Wolff), *Black Boy* (Wright), and two of the following plays: Antigone and/or Oedipus the King (Sophocles), As You Like It or Hamlet (Shakespeare)

The course emphasizes a close examination of the writing process through prewriting, drafting, workshopping, revision, and reflection. Students are expected to strive for greater depth in the revision of their writing and will get to know themselves as writers. This philosophy is applied to each composition with first semester encompassing writing about personal spheres and second semester writing about public spheres.

SUMMER READING: This Boy's Life, Wolff

I. FIRST SEMESTER

Independent Reading: choice of memoir from approved list (full length)

A. Core Texts:

Black Boy, Richard Wright

Selections from Inventing the Truth, Zinsser (Mariner Books)

Choice Texts:

Selections from Tell It Slant, Miller and Paola

Selections from Short Takes, Elizabeth Penfield

Selections from Bird by Bird, Ann Lamott

Selections from The Properties of Perpetual Light, Julian Aguon

Selections from The Business of Memory, Baxter

B. Writing Personal Experience

- observing and writing
- college essay
- personal narrative
- memoir

Expository/Analysis

- writing notebook
- personal issue/commentary
- literary analysis
- style analysis
- style imitations

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II. SECOND SEMESTER

Independent Reading: one work of non-fiction

A. Core Texts (choose two)

Hamlet, Shakespeare (Folger)
As You Like It, Shakespeare (Folger)
Oedipus Rex, Sophocles
Antigone, Sophocles

Optional:

"Escape From Spiderhead," Saunders
The Things They Carried, O'Brien (Penguin)

B. Writing:

Persuasive
Description
Exploratory/Research

C. Project: Writing for a Real Audience

The New York Times OpEd Contest
Toasts
Commencement Addresses

D. Film

Title	Director	Year	Studio	Rating
<u>Waiting for Superman</u>	Guggenheim	2010	Paramount Vantage	PG
<u>Shakespeare in Love</u>	Madden	1998	Miramax	R