Writing as Critical Inquiry

Course Number
WRCl-UF 9102 F03

Instruction Mode:
In-person

Brightspace course site
https://brightspace.nyu.edu/d2l/home/164500

Spring 2022

If you are enrolled in this course 100% remotely and are not a Study Away student for NYU Florence, please make sure that you've completed the online academic orientation via Brightspace so you are aware of site specific support structure, policies and procedures. Please contact florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

Syllabus last updated on: 17 January 2022

Lecturer Contact Information
Elisa Biagini
before class and by appointment

Prerequisites
Writing as Explorations

Units earned
4

Course Details

- Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30am to 11:45am
- All times are Central European Time (CET) Please note that there is a gap in when Daylight Savings Time (DST) begins in Europe and the U.S. In the U.S., DST begins on Sunday, 13 March 2022 when clocks will be set 1 hour forward. In Europe, DST begins Sunday, 27 March 2022.
- Location: Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class.
- Remote Participants: Your instructor will provide you with the Zoom link via NYU Brightspace.
COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU Florence community, we are closely following CDC guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being is our top priority.

Course Description

This writing course will address a variety of issues related to the world the students are living in, introducing them to advanced reading, writing and critical thinking skills. They will learn methods for engaging such skills in the construction of researched-based essays and they will practice a variety of written genres. Like Writing as Exploration the course provides opportunities to practice both formal and informal writing as a tool for thinking, inquiry and discovery and the students will be asked to take more responsibility for developing their own assignment topics, in dialogue with sources of all kinds. Assignments, in the form of three essays (4 pages each) and a variety of shorter pieces, will focus on helping students polishing their individual voices and on developing ideas and honing them through revision and drafting. Emphasis will also be placed on the students’ ability to evaluate and critique their own work and that of others.

Course Objectives

On completion of this course, students should:

- Have improved their ability to think critically, engage in complex reasoning and express their thoughts clearly through their written work
- To initiate, research and write short pieces of original writing
- To analyze critically their own and other’s work
  - To stimulate creativity in an academic environment and become aware of the connections between creativity, structure and discipline

Assessment Components

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- 3 Essays (4 page essays): 25%
- Midterm Exam (in-class exam): 10%
- Assignments (approx 1/2 page each): 25%
- Final Portfolio (4 revised assignments): 20%

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.
Attendance Policy
In order to keep each other safe, if you are not feeling well, we encourage you to remain in your residence and, if possible, attend class remotely. Please make sure to inform your professor in advance so that they can turn on Zoom. Remote attendance is counted as regular attendance. You will not be marked absent.

For a detailed explanation of the global attendance policy, see the NYU Florence Present vs. Absent Flowchart.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. The Global Attendance Policy is posted in the Academic Policies tab in Brightspace, on the NYU Florence Student Portal website, and is posted around campus. After you have read and reviewed the policies, if there is anything that still needs further clarification or raises a question, please reach out to florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu.

Final exams
Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the Academics team. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

Late Submission of Work
Please refer to Academic Policies in Brightspace.

Required Text(s)
All readings are available online on the NYU Brightspace course site. Hard copies of some textbooks are available for consultation and semester-long loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Please email florence.library@nyu.edu to reserve a copy. To request scans from books on reserve please fill out the Ulivi Library Book Scan Form.

Additional Required Equipment
One notebook for free-writing, journal entries, note-taking, and writing exercises

Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 –

Jan 27

Introduction to the course. In class writing exercise

ASSIGN: Florence through the eyes of an animal
Session 2-

Feb 1
Presentation of students’ work and discussion.
READING: L.Bohannan “Shakespeare in the bush”

Feb 3
Reading discussion. In class writing exercise.
ASS. Reflections on miscommunication

Session 3

Feb 8
Presentation of students’ work and discussion.
ASS: Farmaggeddon: is it worth it? (poem or song)
READINGS: G.Monbiot “It’s time to shout stop on this war on the living world”
J. Safran Foer from “Eating animals”
B. Kunkel “Inventing climate-change literature”
E. Kolbert “Now you see it”

Feb 10
Reading discussion. Presentation of students’ work and discussion
ASS: The other (reflection)

Session 4-

Feb 15
Presentation of students’ work and discussion.
ASS. First draft first essay: The nature of privacy

Feb 17
Presentation of students’ first drafts and discussion

ASS. What is creativity?

READING: J.Rothman “Creativity creep”

Session 5 –

Feb 22
Reading discussion. Presentation of students’ work and discussion

READING: A. Martin “Is this title ok?”

Feb 24
Reading discussion. In class writing exercise.

*Make up class: Feb 25, 1130am Museo 900 (meet in front of the Museum)

ASS. Write a poem inspired by an artwork seen at Museo 900

Session 6-

* DUE: Final version first essay (March 3)

March 1
Presentation of students’ work and discussion.

ASS Response to Calvino’s piece

READING: I.Calvino “Lightness”

March 3
Reading discussion. Presentation of students’ work and discussion.

ASS Response to Krese’s piece

READING: M.Krese “Our cotton colonies”+ report on another article on the same subject
Session 7 –
March 8
Reading discussion. Presentation of students’ work and discussion.

March 10
MIDTERM
ASS. First draft second essay: Overconsumption

Session 8 –
Spring Break

Session 9 –
March 22
Presentation of students’ first drafts and discussion
READING: A.Rich “in those years”; P. Larkin “The mower”

March 24
Reading discussion. In class writing exercise.
ASS. Response to Salinger’s short story
READING: J.D. Salinger “A perfect day for bananafish”

Session 10 –
March 29
Reading discussion. Presentation of students’ work and discussion
ASS. Meeting the world: Piazza Tasso (details in class)

March 31
Presentation of students’ work and discussion

*MAKE UP CLASS: April 1, 9 am San Miniato (meet in front of the church)

ASS. Giving voice

Session 11 –

* Due: final version second essay (by April 7)

April 5

Presentation of students’ work and discussion

ASS. Present a contemporary artwork that addresses a social issue.

April 7

Presentation of students’ work and discussion

ASS: Third essay topic proposal and annotated bibliography (details in class)

Session 12 –

April 12

How contemporary art tell us about the world: in class writing exercise.

ASS. First draft of essay 3 (topics TBD)

April 14

Presentation of students’ first drafts of third essay and discussion

ASS. TBD

Session 13 –

April 19
Presentation of students’ work and discussion

ASS Response to Wallace’s piece

READING: DF Wallace “This is water”

April 21

NO CLASS

Session 14 –

April 26

Reading discussion. Presentation of students’ work and discussion

April 28

Presentation of students’ work and discussion

ASS. About leaving.

Session 15–

May 3

Presentation of students’ work and discussion.

May 5

TBD

Session 16 –

May 10

Final version essay 3

May 12

Portfolio due (4 revised assignments)
Required Co-Curricular Activities

Museo 900
San Miniato

Your Lecturer

Elisa Biagini lives in Florence, Italy, after having taught and studied in the US for several years (Ph.D. Rutgers University). She has published eight poetry collections, most recently *Filamenti* (Einaudi 2020). Her poems have been translated into many languages, and she has published editions of her poetry in Spain, France and the US (“The guest in the wood”, Chelsea editions, 2013 - “2014 Best Translated Book Award”; “The plant of dreaming”, Xenos books, 2017; “Close to the Teeth”, Autumn hill books, 2021). A translator from English (of Alicia Ostriker, Sharon Olds, Lucille Clifton amongst others), she has published an anthology of contemporary American poetry, *Nuovi Poeti Americani* (Einaudi, 2006) and she has been invited to the most important international poetry festivals. She teaches Creative Writing-Poetry, Travel Writing, Literature and Art History. [www.elisabiagini.it](http://www.elisabiagini.it)

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offences against academic integrity.

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

- NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines
- NYU Library Guides

Inclusivity Policies and Priorities
NYU’s Office of Global Programs and NYU’s global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer and Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays.

**Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert and Zoom)**

Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, NYU Brightspace, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website.

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the Personalizing Zoom Display Names website.

**Moses Accommodations Statement**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsdx@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU Florence.

**Bias Response**

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University’s existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.
To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the Web Form (link)
- Email: bias.response@nyu.edu
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Telephone: 055 5007277