

Writers in Florence: Fiction (Craft)

Wednesday / Friday, 3pm – 5.30pm

Instructor: Hari Kunzru / hmk4@nyu.edu

In this course, we will explore the elements of fiction writing: how to construct a narrative, how to build character, how to describe people, places and things. We will pay close attention to the way literary style creates different emotions and effects, and begin to understand the important concept of ‘voice’.

Reading List:

Throughout we will use EM Forster’s *A Room With a View*, one of the great English language novels about Florence. Please start reading this now, preferably in the 2018 Penguin Classics edition with the introduction by Wendy Moffat.

How the class will work:

All reading must be completed. No winging it. You must come prepared to participate in discussion, and ready to do written exercises in class. You will also be sent on missions into Florence, to use the city and elements of Forster’s book as inspiration for your own writing. Sometimes there will be written assignments. Be aware that attendance counts significantly towards your final grade. If you don’t show up, you won’t do well, however brilliant you are when you’re present. Any kind of plagiarism will not be tolerated. At our last meeting, you will submit a final paper (5-10 pages long) on a subject which we’ll agree on after we’ve worked together for a few sessions. If for any reason you are unable to attend a class email me **well in advance**.