

SYLLABUS: Poetry Workshop (Writers in Paris, Summer 2019)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-6:00 (29 June - 27 July)

Professor: Catherine Barnett; cb56@nyu.edu

Office hours: By appointment

In this intensive poetry workshop, students will learn to read poems (your own and others') as writers and as intimate listeners. We will practice various "acts of mind" to expand our own repertoires as poets, practicing new ways of thinking, feeling, saying, unsaying, questioning, comparing, contradicting, describing, swerving, leaping, linking, and moving in and out of time.

Students will be asked to hand in at least two new poems and two rough free-writes each week; you will also be asked to revise your drafts and to write informal responses to assigned readings and outings. We'll visit an art gallery or museum to jumpstart our poems, exploring Paris through various writerly lenses. We'll practice improvisational writing and consider Elizabeth Bishop's notion that poetry is "thinking with feeling."

Reading:

Ecco Anthology of International Poetry (edited by Ilya Kaminsky and Susan Harris)

In the Shape of a Human Body I Am Visiting the Earth: Poems from Far and Wide (edited by Ilya Kaminsky, Dominic Luxford, and Jesse Nathan)

"Debut Poets" (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018), from *Poets & Writers* (available online)

Handouts to be provided

Grading:

Ongoing creative and analytic work: 50%

Class participation: 50%

Provisional class schedule (to be adjusted as needed):

2 July: Introductions; in-class writing; discuss arts of description and attention

4 July: Full-class speed workshop; discuss art of association; associative logic

9 July: 1/2-class workshop; discuss metaphor/simile

11 July: 1/2-class workshop; discuss questions/questioning; knowing and not-knowing

16 July: 1/2-class workshop; discuss time/temporal shifts; point of view

18 July: 1/2-class workshop; discuss syntax

23 July: Radical Revision

25 July: Anonymous workshop; putting it all together; how to read aloud

Attendance: Because we have such a short time together, it is imperative that you attend every class, arrive promptly, complete all homework and outside reading, and turn in all assignments on time.