

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: CRWR 6600	Course Title: PLENARY, WRITERS ON WRITING	Date of Offering: Fall 2022
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Course Instructor: Canisia Lubrin	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

In Writers on Writing students will vigorously debate issues of form and craft as articulated in the writing of a diverse range of writers including Natalie Diaz, Dionne Brand, Young Jean Lee, Renee Gladman, Vivian Gornick and Ursula K. LeGuin. As such, students will engage rigorously with course readings to examine the many ways that writers understand and describe their own creative processes, techniques, aims, and engagements with a range of subjects including strategies for generating work, conceptual frameworks for creation, questions of form including fluidity between forms, and the use of formal constraints in creation. Each week the readings are gathered under a thematically constructed rubric which will focus the week's discussion. Students are asked to consider both the readings and their own writing practice in light of these thematic frames. Further notes to guide reading may be provided in advance of each week's class by the instructor. Our aim collectively is to use the specificity of where we write from in order to provoke curiosity, to look inward and outward and to think deeply with each other. These signposts will guide our conversations about both what it means to be a writer and what we adhere to in our chosen form/s.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar/Class Presentation: 30 percent

Participation: 30 percent

Final Paper: 40 percent

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

1. Course Pack. Plus, readings with links in the syllabus.
2. Hiromi Goto & Ann Xu (ill.), *Shadow Life*, c. 2021, First Second/Raincoast Books.
3. Horacio Castellanos Moya (tr. Katherine Silver), *Senselessness*, c. 2008, New Directions Books.
4. Elissa Washuta and Theresa Warburton (eds.), *Shapes of Native Nonfiction: Collected Essays by Contemporary Writers*
5. Dionne Brand, *The Blue Clerk*, c. 2018, McClelland & Stewart.
6. Suzan-Lori Parks, *The American Play and Other Works*, c. 1994, Theatre Communications Group (available online)

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

In-Person, with some flexibility for virtual synchronous/asynchronous components.

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.