

CREW 258 and CREW 259 THE IOWA WORKSHOP He Tuhinga nō Tāwāhi me He Rotarota nō Tāwāhi (20 points)

Every year we offer a special workshop taught by outstanding Creative Writing graduates from the University of Iowa. Over the summer of 2024/2025 two graduates of the Iowa Writers' Workshop will convene CREW 258 (fiction workshop) and CREW 259 (poetry workshop).

The Iowa Writers' Workshop is America's oldest and most prestigious creative writing programme, and numbers among its graduates a dozen winners of the Pulitzer Prize. Raymond Carver, John Irving and Flannery O'Connor are among the most distinguished fiction writers to have come through Iowa. Poets include Robert Bly, Jorie Graham, and US poet laureates Rita Dove and Mark Strand.

How to Enrol

Enrolment in CREW 258 and 259 is limited to 12 students in each workshop. The prerequisite is 40 points and an appropriate standard in written composition. Because of demand for places the quality of the writing sample which accompanies applications is critical in deciding admissions.

Application and enrolment: must be lodged online. Go to this link:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol>

Prospective applicants are recommended to visit the How to Apply page of our website. Go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters for more details.

Assessment

The course is assessed by a folio of writing submitted immediately after the final workshop. Folios are examined on a pass/fail basis by the Course Convenor.

Reading

The Course Convenor may make reading suggestions based on your individual project. There are also two books which will give you some idea of what to expect from our workshops as well as providing resources for developing your work. *Mutes & Earthquakes* brings together essays and creative work from a wide range of writers who have connections with the IIML. More recently, *The Exercise Book* presents favourite writing exercises across a variety of genres, including poetry, prose and scriptwriting.

Application deadline: 1 November 2024

Course dates for both CREW 258 and CREW 259 : 7 January – 13 February 2025

Timetable:

CREW 258: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am – 1pm

CREW 259: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 – 5pm

International Institute of Modern Letters

Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

ENQUIRIES: Tel (04) 463 6854 Email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

Website www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters

FICTION WORKSHOP (limited to 12 students):

Course Convenor **Sara Luzuriaga** writes:

What is the balance between craft and instinct in fiction? What can we learn on the level of technique to elevate our fiction, and how can we hone and deepen our natural instincts? In this class, we will read, discuss, write, and workshop short fiction with an eye toward the potentials and limits of craft. First, we will read and discuss exemplar fiction by writers including James Baldwin, Carmen Maria Machado, Bryan Washington, Susan Minot, Annie Ernaux, and others; we will attempt to understand how these stories work, what we can learn from them, and which elements of each story cannot be replicated. We will tease apart the different kinds of tension: life-or-death, slow burn, dramatic irony, horror, titillation, and more. We will look at characters who captivate and those who drift into forgettability. We will examine the internal narrative structures that maintain, build, or lose momentum and intensity. And, of course, we will discuss the ways we can apply these techniques to our own stories, both by considering how each story works, and by engaging in reflective, generative exercises to tap into our own impulses and interests. Participants are expected to engage in class discussion of the assigned readings, provide feedback on the writing of their peers, and contribute a piece of their own writing to workshop.

Sarah Luzuriaga is a British-Ecuadorian fiction writer raised in Philadelphia. She received her MFA in Fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and her BA in Comparative Literature from Yale University. Her work has been published in *The Sun Magazine*, *Off Assignment*, *The Harvard Advocate*, and *Soft Punk Magazine*.

POETRY WORKSHOP (limited to 12 students):

Course Convenor **Ali Bergmann** writes:

"[T]hus one can use in poetry / names of Greek shepherds / one can attempt to catch the color of morning sky / write of love / and also / once again / in dead earnest / offer to the betrayed world / a rose" - "Five Men" by Zbigniew Herbert, translated by Czesław Miłosz & Peter Dale Scott

Can a poem really be a hand offering the betrayed world a rose? Can a poem be a joke? A choose-your-own-adventure game? A comic strip? Can a collection of poems be a concept album? An alphabet? A history of the world? If the answer to all of these questions is *yes*, then what will these poems look like? Who is going to write them but us?

We will read sonnets that reinvent this classic structure. We will read narratives that build themselves only to destroy themselves. We will read poems in the imagined voices of historical figures, animals, and extra-terrestrials. We will ask ourselves again and again: what poetic tools and traditions can a poet use to make something totally new?

Readings will include selections by Patricia Smith, Safia Elhillo, Terrance Hayes, TC Tolbert, Inger Christensen, Jericho Brown, Ken Chen, and many more.

In the course of our study, students will develop an advanced understanding of the basic units of poetry analysis (e.g., syntax, point of view, language, imagery, theme, tone & sound) and will be able to properly identify their value in contemporary poetry. Students will identify specific forms, devices, and themes that they want to play with or "reinvent." The resulting experiments will lead to the creation of a final portfolio comprised of 6 new poems.

Students will hand in 4 "Studio Packets" due January 16, January 23, January 30, and February 6. These packets will include a minimum of 3 newly crafted original poems, or 2 new poems and one revised poem from previous packets.

Alexandra (Ali) Bergmann is a science communicator and poet committed to interdisciplinary thinking. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Ali grew up with a deep love of nature, particularly redwood forests and tide pools. While earning their B.A. at Cornell University in Biological Sciences and English, Ali conducted ecological studies on native bees and wildflowers. Ali worked as a public school teacher, then a biotech laboratory operator, prior to matriculating at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Ali's past scientific research inspires many of their poems to this day. Ali earned her M.F.A. from the University of Iowa in 2024 with the thesis *The Case for Wonder*, a four-part poetic argument against apathy and despair. Ali's poetry has appeared in *SEISMA MAGAZINE* and is forthcoming in *3Elements Literary Review*.