ENG 468 Contemporary Writers Colloquium  Spring 2015

Instructor Xavier Cavazos  email: cavazosp@cwu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-2:30
Black 225-26

Required Texts:

Ellis, Thomas Sayers  Skin, Inc.
Joseph, Allison  My Father’s Kites
Seibles, Tim  Fast Animal

Additional reading material will be posted in the class modules. Poems written by you and your classmates serve as an integral text for this class.

Course Description:
Hello writers! Welcome to Contemporary Writers Colloquium. We are here to take the writing life seriously! This class will give you the opportunity to experience, study, discuss and analyze the newest work by three working and established American writers. You will attend readings and craft talks by Thomas Sayers Ellis, Allison Joseph, and Tim Seibles---and ask them questions in their craft talks, and get some words of feedback from them. We will be working in our writing workshop on new poems. You will also be writing reviews of the readings, giving a PowerPoint presentation on one of the visiting writer’s work, and writing an explication of a one of the texts. We will also spend one of our weeks on preparing for the writing life after college: submitting your work, looking for jobs, continuing school, and finding a writing community.

Major Projects and Grading:

Explication paper  15% of grade
PowerPoint presentation  15% of grade
Reading reviews  5% of grade
In Class Exercises  5% of grade
Homework exercises  15% of grade
Workshop Poems and comments  15% of grade
3 Reading Quizzes  10% of grade
Final writing portfolio 25% of grade

NOTES:

The grades in this class are weighted by percentage. To figure your grade by the number of points given an assignment on Canvas will not be accurate. It is important not to skip assignments if you want to get a good grade.

There will be NO acceptance of late exercises or assignments. These will be counted as missing.

**Manuscript format and workshop copies:** All writing assignments, including exercises and homework, must be submitted as Word docs. Include your name on all your assignments and **PROOFREAD** your work. Use 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

Diversity
In my classroom, diversity is welcomed and celebrated. I will not tolerate any forms of prejudice or discrimination, including those based on age, color, disability, gender, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. We are here to learn in a climate of civility and mutual respect.

To find out more about diversity, contact the Diversity Education Center at X1685 or see the website at: www.cwu.edu/~diversity
ENG 468 CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:
This syllabus is subject to change; changes will be announced in Canvas.

WEEK ONE
3/31/-4/5
Review syllabus.
Sign ups for presentations and feedback from visiting writers.
Workshop schedule & format.
Begin reading Thomas Sayers Ellis’ collection Skin, Inc.: Identity Repair Poems.
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK TWO
4/6/-4/12
Read: Skin, Inc. by Thomas Sayers Ellis.
Prep for workshop/Poetry exercise.
Thomas Sayers Ellis poetry prompts.
Submit specific questions for Thomas Sayers Ellis regarding his collection Skin, Inc.: Identity Repair Poems and the writing life.
Due: Reading Quiz #1
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK THREE
4/13/-4/19
Read: Skin, Inc. by Thomas Sayers Ellis.
Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Thomas Sayers Ellis poem.
Due: Poem Exercise #1 from TSE prompt.
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK FOUR
4/20/-4/26
Read: My Father's Kites by Allison Joseph.
Read: Skin, Inc. by Thomas Sayers Ellis.
Poet Thomas Sayers Ellis Craft Talk and Reading.
Poem Feedback from Thomas Sayers Ellis.
Due: Workshop Poem #1 from TSE prompt.
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK FIVE
4/27/-5/3

Read: *My Father’s Kites* by Allison Joseph.

Allison Joseph poetry prompts.
Submit specific questions for Allison Joseph regarding her collection *My Father’s Kites* or the writing life.

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Allison Joseph poem.

Due: Thomas Sayers Ellis Reading Review
Due: Poem Exercise #2 from Allison Joseph prompt.
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK SIX
5/4/-5/10

Read: *Fast Animal* by Tim Seibles.
Read: *My Father’s Kites* by Allison Joseph.

Submit specific questions for Tim Seibles regarding his collection *Fast Animal* or the writing life.

Due: Workshop Poem #2 from Allison Joseph prompt.

Due: Reading Quiz #2
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK SEVEN
5/11/-5/17

Read: *Fast Animal* by Tim Seibles.
Read: *My Father’s Kites* by Allison Joseph.

Poet Allison Joseph Craft Talk and Reading
Poem Feedback from Allison Joseph.

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Tim Seibles poem.

Tim Seibles poetry prompts.
Due: Poem Exercise #3 from Tim Seibles prompt.
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK EIGHT
5/18/-5/24/

Read: Fast Animal by Tim Seibles.

Poet Tim Seibles Craft Talk and Reading
Poem Feedback from Tim Seibles.

Poetry Paper Guidelines (5-page min. explication papers).

Due: Workshop Poem #3 from Tim Seibles prompt.

Due: Reading Quiz #3
Due: Allison Joseph Reading Review
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK NINE
5/25/-5/31

Writing Portfolio Guidelines.

Due: Workshop Poem Exercise Revision.

Due: Tim Seibles Reading Review
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

WEEK TEN
6/1/-6/7

Participate in Writing Life Discussion.

Due: Poetry Papers
Due: In class writing exercise.
Due: Participate in Discussion.

NO EXAM

Writing Portfolios due Tuesday, 6/9/2015