ENG 468 Contemporary Writers Colloquium  
Spring 2015

Professor Katharine Whitcomb  
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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 (via Panopto and other technology) readings 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

Check-In With Professor  
5% of grade

Homework Poem exercises  
15% of grade

Workshop Poems and comments  
15% of grade

3 Reading Quizzes  
10% of grade

Final writing portfolio  
20% 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**
3/31/15-4/5/15
- 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: Participate in Introduction Discussion.

Due: Check-In With Professor

**WEEK TWO**
4/6/15-4/12/15
**Read: Skin, Inc. by Thomas Sayers Ellis.**
- Prep for workshop.
- Thomas Sayers Ellis poetry prompts.

Due: Reading Quiz #1

Due: Check-In With Professor: All students send specific questions for Thomas Sayers Ellis.

**WEEK THREE**
4/13/15-4/19/15
**Read: Skin, Inc. by Thomas Sayers Ellis.**

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Thomas Sayers Ellis poem.

Due: Poem Exercise #1 from TSE prompt. TSE Critique Group sends poems.

Due: Check-In With Professor
WEEK FOUR
4/20/15-4/26/15

Read: *My Father’s Kites* by Allison Joseph.
Read: Review *Skin, Inc.* by Thomas Sayers Ellis.

Poet Thomas Sayers Ellis Craft Talk and Reading posted.
TSE Critique Group gets poem feedback from Thomas Sayers Ellis.

Due: Workshop Poem #1 from TSE prompt (post poems Wed., comments due Sun.).

Due: Check-In With Professor.

WEEK FIVE
4/27/15-5/3/15

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

Allison Joseph poetry prompts.

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Allison Joseph poem.

Due: Thomas Sayers Ellis Reading Review.

Due: Poem Exercise #2 from Allison Joseph prompt. Allison Joseph Critique Group sends poems.

Due: Check-In With Professor: All students submit specific questions for Allison Joseph.

WEEK SIX
5/4/15-5/10/15

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

Due: Workshop Poem #2 from Allison Joseph prompt (post poems Wed., comments due Sun.)

Due: Reading Quiz #2

Due: Check-In With Professor: All students submit specific questions for Tim Seibles.
WEEK SEVEN
5/11/15-5/17/15

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

Poet Allison Joseph Craft Talk and Reading posted.
Allison Joseph Critique Group receives Poem Feedback from Allison Joseph.

Due: PowerPoint Presentations on Tim Seibles poem.

Tim Seibles poetry prompts.

Due: Poem Exercise #3 from Tim Seibles prompt. Tim Seibles Critique Group sends poems.

Due: Check-In With Professor.

WEEK EIGHT
5/18/15-5/24/15

**Read: Fast Animal by Tim Seibles.**

Poet Tim Seibles Craft Talk and Reading posted.
Tim Seibles Critique Group receives poem feedback from Tim Seibles.

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

Due: Workshop Poem #3 from Tim Seibles prompt (poems posted Wed., comments due Sun.).

Due: Reading Quiz #3

Due: Allison Joseph Reading Review

Due: Check-In With Professor.
WEEK NINE
5/25/15-5/31/15

Writing Portfolio Guidelines.

Due: Workshop Poem Exercise Revision (post poems Wed., comments due Sun.).

Due: Tim Seibles Reading Review.

Due: Check-In With Professor.

WEEK TEN
6/1/15-6/7/15

Participate in Writing Life Discussion.

Due: Poetry Papers (follow guidelines).

Due: Check-In With Professor.

NO EXAM

Writing Portfolios due Tuesday, 6/9/2015 (follow guidelines).