

## Grad Nonfiction Workshop: The Revisionist Life

M. Evelina Galang 309 Ash Building. 305.284.5573. [mgalang@miami.edu](mailto:mgalang@miami.edu) Conferences: Thursday 2-4 by appointment

Required Texts: MILOSZ'S ABC'S (FSG) by Czeslaw Milosz; DICTEE (Third Woman Press) by Theresa Hak Kyung Cha; WOMAN WARRIOR (Vintage) by Maxine Hong Kingston; AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A FACE (Harperperennial) by Lucy Grealy; ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT (Grove Press) by Jeanette Winterston; THE BLACK NOTEBOOKS: An Interior Journey (WW Norton) by Toi Derricote

Course Description: This seminar/workshop encourages writers to collage and montage memoir in nontraditional forms through the gathering, writing and ordering of histories, myth, interviews, poetry, ideographs, photographs, image and other texts. In addition to workshopping, we will explore books that blur memory, imagination, found text and prose in order to write, develop and critique essays of memoir. We'll break the books down in order to experiment with our own writing, exploring new ways to write the old stories – or new ways to see the old stories – and why not, old ways to see new stories.

Policies, Procedures:

*Attendance:* Regular attendance is essential. You may be excused for two class periods. Further absences may result in the failure of this class.

*Workshops:* Even though this is a forms seminar, I made room for you to workshop what I call creative responses to the books we're reading. That gives you freedom to respond to form, to substance, to experiment and to play. It also gives you permission to go to material you would normally avoid in your fiction or poetry. Please turn in six (this may change) copies of your creative responses on the Friday before workshop (let's say by 5PM). I'll put a box or something outside my door so your peers can pick the pieces up and have the weekend to read them. If your response comes in after that, we'll try but we won't be able to guarantee written critique. These creative responses will be rough, will be risky and will be typed.

*Portfolios:* Your portfolios will consist of your analytical and creative responses to the books we're reading. Take risks. Write what you do not know. Write what makes you uncomfortable. Leave what is safe. Please include all drafts, letters of critique as well as any notes of response to workshops and reader comments in your final portfolio. Challenge yourselves and each other, take risks in your writing, be willing to write badly in order to push yourselves. A passing grade will consider not only your progress (evident in the portfolio and subsequent revisions), but also your ability and effort to give critical response to your peers.

*Annotations:* During weeks where we are reading books, a short critical analysis of the book assigned is due. The annotation will be two to three pages in length, will focus on a particular aspect of the book's form in connection to its content, and will be typed. Each week I will return the annotations from the previous week with marginal responses and questions.

Grading Criteria: Portfolio 50% + Workshop Participation 20% + Annotations and Creative Responses: 30%= 100%

## SYLLABUS

Week One: January 20

Introduction to class. Risk Assignment: Write what you cannot speak about, what you have yet to say. Then make an appointment with me during next class hour.

Week Two: January 27

Individual conferences with Galang. Bring a draft of your risk assignment.

Week Three: February 3

Discuss WOMAN WARRIOR

Email me annotations by Monday night.

Week Four: February 10

Workshop your creative responses to WOMAN WARRIOR.

(Drop off six copies at my office door by 5PM Friday.)

Week Five: February 17

Discuss ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT.

Email me annotations by Monday night.

Week Six: February 24

Workshop your creative responses to ORANGES.

(Drop off six copies at my office door by 5PM Friday.)

Week Seven: March 2

Discuss DICTEE

Email me annotations by Monday night.

Week Eight: March 9

Workshop your creative responses to DICTEE.

(Drop off six copies at my office door by 5PM Friday.)

MARCH 16 SPRINGBREAK

Week Nine: March 23

Discuss THE BLACK NOTEBOOKS: An Interior Journey

Email me annotations by Monday night.

Week Ten: March 30

Workshop your creative responses to BLACK NOTEBOOKS.

(Drop off six copies at my office door by 5PM Friday.)

Week Eleven: April 6 (NO CLASS: We'll reschedule for sometime this week. Maybe the 8<sup>th</sup>?)

Discuss MILOSZ'S ABC'S

Email me annotations by Monday night.

Week Twelve: April 13

Workshop your creative responses to MILOSZ

(Drop off six copies at my office door by 5PM Friday.)

Week Fourteen: April 20<sup>th</sup> (MY BIRTHDAY!)

Discuss AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A FACE

Email me annotations by Monday night.

Week Thirteen: April 27

Workshop your creative responses to AUTOBIOGRAPHY  
(Drop off six copies at my office door by 5PM Friday.)