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WTS 195T.01: Introduction to Creative Writing

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COM 195T: Introduction to Creative Writing
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*The moment of writing is not an escape, however, it is only an instance, through the imagination,
upon human ecstasy, and a reminder that such ecstasy remains as much
a birthright in this world as misery remains a condition of it.*
Larry Levis

Texts:

My Story As Told By Water, David James Duncan
Last Night, James Salter
Human Wishes, Robert Hass
We Do Not Eat Our Hearts Alone, Kerri Webster

Course Objectives:

This introductory creative writing course is as inclusive as creative writing itself. The course will open with an overview of contemporary poetry, short-fiction and creative non-fiction, as well as various thematic and aesthetic trends in each genre. During this time, students will consider works from established poets and learn how to begin talking about characteristics of individual works. Each student will work intensely in each of the three genres, writing three to five poems, and one to three pieces of short fiction and creative non-fiction. Each student will turn in a collection of their work at the end of the semester.

Course Requirements:

There will be reading assignments from all four required texts as well as written responses to prompts from those texts.

Writing assignments will consist of drafts of student works, to be turned in weekly.

The end-collection of approximately 10-15 pieces will represent approximately 70% of the student's overall grade.

The remaining 30% will be based on the student's participation in on-line discussions, as well as a final letter to the instructor commenting on the overall progression of the individual's creative work.

Grading:

It is important that each class-member contributes to the workshop discussion. A friendly, supportive atmosphere encourages each writer to feel that he or she has plenty to offer. I will also encourage and support students who attend local readings or writing festivals. My intention for grading is generous. Good writing is not easy; hence, students will be given plenty of room to explore various possibilities. Failed works are part of the learning process, but each effort is respected with genuine appreciation. Student's grades will reflect their development of understanding specific tools within the traditions as well as their ability to engage in serious, insightful discussions of writing.