**Course Title:** Unleashing Your Inner Songwriter  
**Course Code:** WSP 45  
**Instructor:** Laura Veirs

**Course Summary:** Nothing speaks to the human experience like a well-written song, and—despite how overwhelming it can seem—songwriting is an eminently learnable process. In fact, over the course of this weekend workshop, students will write no fewer than four songs. Using specially designed prompts and creative processes to demystify songwriting, students will learn how to write songs from start to finish, quickly and with creative flow.

**Grade Options and Requirements:**
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit will be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Students must attend both class sessions.

**Tentative Workshop Outline:**

**Saturday:**
- 9-9:30 - (30 mins) Introductions - why are you here, what do you hope to get out of this? What are your overall songwriting goals? Let’s write them down (this workshop, three months out, one year out.)
- 9:30-10 - (30 mins) LV talks about the cards - how they work, why I designed them, how they worked for me, the success of the online class, and demonstrate briefly how one could write a song with them. The paradoxical freedom of constraints. LV talks about failure and how being stuck is part of the process – different ways LV has failed and pushed through to continue working.
- 10-11 - (1 hr) Go to your room and write your first song.
- 11-12 - (60 mins) Lunch break
- 12-12:30 - (30 mins) Reconvene to discuss how first songwriting sessions went. What were your stumbling blocks? What went well? Were you able to work quickly?
- 12:30-1:30 - (1 hr) Q and A / Discussion - Students ask LV about her songwriting process and writing practice. Developing a creative practice. When do you fit in time for creativity. Let’s make a time plan. How to find inspiration and mystery in your life. Discuss other resources like “The Artist’s Way.”
- 1:30-1:45 - (15 mins) snack break
- 1:45-2:45 - (60 mins) Second songwriting session
- 2:45-3:15 - (30 mins) Share something that you wrote today. Limit to about 2 minutes per person depending on class size.
- 3:15-4 - (45 mins) Debriefing / discussion about how the day went. Did you accomplish your goals for today? What are your goals for tomorrow? Let’s write them down. What other questions do you have for LV?
**Sunday:**
9-9:30 - (30 mins) LV demonstrates writing a song from the cards. Asks for student input as she goes.
9:30-10 - (15 mins) Talk about letting go of inner critic as you are writing. Letting a song be “bad.” Learning through doing.
10-11 - (1 hr) Go to your room and write your first song.
11-12 - (60 mins) Lunch break
12-12:30 - (1 hr) Q and A / Discussion– Talk about the importance of the editorial mind and when to bring that in. Talk about a “healthy sense of entitlement.” How everyone’s story matters. How working in a different genre can free up different creative pathways. (They could try to write a poem or a prose piece in next session if they want to.) The importance of discipline. The importance of having a writing community/joining or starting a writing group.
1:30-1:45 - (15 mins) snack break
1:45-2:45 - (60 mins) Second songwriting session
2:45-3:15 - (30 mins) Share something that you wrote today. Limit to about 2 minutes per person depending on class size.
3:15-4 - (45 mins) Debriefing / discussion about how the weekend went. Did you accomplish your goals for today? What other questions do you have for LV?