Course Title: Creative Expression in Writing
Course Code: WSP 126
Instructor: Brittany Perham

Course Summary:
This course is intended to help you develop and sustain a personal creative writing practice. Students will investigate short forms (flash fiction and nonfiction, as well as lineated poems) to strengthen and invigorate their creative processes.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.

Grade Options and Requirements:
You have three options:
1.) No Grade Requested (this is the default option)
2.) Credit/No Credit: attendance will determine your grade
3.) Letter Grade: your attendance, participation, and submitted poems will account for 100% of your grade. Over the course of the quarter, you should plan to turn in three poems for workshop.

Tentative Daily Outline:


Part 1. A discussion of creative process and practice:

Today we’ll begin the discussion by thinking about where we are in our writing lives and where we would like to be when the class is over. We’ll talk about ways to develop a personal creative practice and maintain this practice each day; topics will include strategies for creating space and time for writing (keeping creativity journals, engaging with other art forms, building creative communities, etc.) in daily life. Finally, we’ll think about how to continue to strengthen and energize our practice as we continue to grow as writers and makers.

Part 2. An investigation of short forms:

We’ll consider some of the questions central to writing and investigating short short prose pieces and lineated poems. How can writing in short forms invigorate and strengthen our creative practice? How can this kind of writing encourage us to experiment and take new risks? What can we do in our writing to make a memorable and satisfying short piece? What are some of the forms at work in these kinds pieces, and what are the craft tools that can
help us write in these forms? This discussion will be open to, and driven by, the questions and ideas that each of us has about writing in short forms and about our own writing process.

We’ll structure our time by looking at examples of a number of short forms, organized by genre: short short fiction, short short nonfiction, and lineated poetry. Each of these discussions will help us understand and develop essential craft tools necessary to strong writing. In each case, we’ll read examples of published work, and we’ll do in-class writing exercises to help us generate new material.

Day 2 – Workshop, revision, and continuing the creative journey.

Part 1. The workshop.

In the morning, each participant will workshop a piece generated on the first day of the course. We’ll look at each piece in a supportive way, with the goal of helping that piece realize its full potential in terms of idea, clarity, movement, resolution, etc.

Part 2: Revision; continuing the creative journey.

In the afternoon, we’ll discuss the revision process. How might we learn to re-vision our piece—to see it with new eyes—so that we might bring it forward into its next incarnation? We’ll discuss the difficulties, pleasures, and best practices of revision. Then we’ll think about how to make revision a sustaining part of our writing process.

We’ll close the day by considering what we have accomplished in our two days together, and by thinking about how we want to continue to grow our own creative practice.