

Writing from the Senses
Fall Semester 2022
MThF 3:10-4:30pm, T 3:20-4:25pm
Rm 221, Rm 330
Amelia Whitcomb
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Google Classroom Code: mkewscd

Course Description:

All good writing involves sensory details. It's what makes your work feel real and believable, and it's what connects it to the lived experiences of your readers. In this course we will be using the five senses as our guides. Through discussions, writing exercises, sensory investigations, and a diverse array of readings, we'll explore the specifics of sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch/feel, and how each can inspire and enliven our writing.

A couple times a week, we will begin our day with a short sensory exercise. I will bring in objects, images, sounds, etc to immerse us in the sense we're investigating. I invite you all to bring in sensory inspirations to share as well.

Classwork and Assignments:

-Discussions, Reading, and Participation: Students will be expected to show up to class prepared to engage and write. Class time will be given for all reading and writing assignments.

-Workbooks: Students will be expected to keep a workbook to complete shorter exercises, to track inspirations, and document their writing process. Workbook assignments will be posted on Google Classroom, and the workbooks will be collected each quarter for grading. If you don't already have a sketchbook or notebook that you can use as a workbook for this course, talk to me and I will help you get one. :)

-Writing Exercises: Students are expected to keep up with weekly writing exercises. Responses to these prompts need not be completed fully to receive credit, rather I am looking to see that you are experimenting, pushing yourself, and engaging with the concepts and media presented in class.

Student Assessment & Grading

50% Writing Exercises and Collaborative Activities

25% Workbooks

15% Participation

10% Attendance

Community Guidelines

-Keep your phones in your bag during class time, unless I give you permission to use them. Remember the school cell phone policy is:

-1st time: a warning

-2nd time: immediate confiscation by the teacher and the phone is returned at the end of the period

-3rd time: phone will be confiscated and given to the Dean to be collected at the end of the day

-Only one student can sign out to use the bathroom at a time. Don't dawdle - someone might be anxiously waiting for their turn. If you need to take a break, come talk to me, and we can figure out another way for you to take space that doesn't monopolize the pass.

-Be mindful, be compassionate, be considerate. We've all been through a lot and are continuing to go through A LOT. Let's practice patience, empathy, and care with one another, and with ourselves too.