The Writer’s Workshop

Course Information

- HU3110.R01, SPRING 2013
- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:05-3:20pm
- Fisher Hall, Room 127
- Professor: M. Bartley Seigel (Matt)
- Professor Contact: mbsiegel@mtu.edu or (906) 487-2016
- Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-12pm or by appointment
- Required Texts (4): The Writing Life; Writing Down the Bones; Bird by Bird; The Believer Book of Writers Talking to Writers.

Course Policies

- Students must fulfill their responsibilities: Completing all assignments on deadline, reading all assigned readings on deadline, taking notes, writing daily, revising, editing, studying, participating in workshops, participating in course discussions, posing pertinent questions, engaging the materials, and being an engaging participants.
- Students who fail to attend or fully participate in the course can expect a course grade absolutely no higher than a C. Failure to make a deadline will result in an automatic F on that assignment. Late coursework will not be accepted and cannot be “made up.” Turning work in early is always acceptable, though students are encouraged to stick close to their deadlines. Student’s should plan ahead and accordingly.
- A note on attendance:

"Did I Miss Anything" by Tom Wayman

Nothing. When we realized you weren’t here
we sat with our hands folded on our desks
in silence, for the full two hours
Everything. I gave an exam worth
40 percent of the grade for this term
and assigned some reading due today
on which I’m about to hand out a quiz
worth 50 percent.
Nothing. None of the content of this course
has value or meaning
Take as many days off as you like:
any activities we undertake as a class
I assure you will not matter either to you or me
and are without purpose
Everything. A few minutes after we began last time
a shaft of light suddenly descended and an angel
or other heavenly being appeared
and revealed to us what each woman or man must do
to attain divine wisdom in this life and the hereafter
This is the last time the class will meet
before we disperse to bring the good news to all people on earth
Nothing. When you are not present
how could something significant occur?
Everything. Contained in this classroom
is a microcosm of human experience
assembled for you to query and examine and ponder
This is not the only place such an opportunity has been gathered
but it was one place
And you weren’t here

- Something less than an engaged commitment to integrity and ethics undermines the efforts of the entire community. Breaking this social compact will result in an automatic F for this course.
- Grading Metric: A (4 points, 96-100%); A/B (3.5 points, 90-95%); B (3 points, 84-89%); B/C (2.5 points, 78-83%); C (2 points, 72-77%); C/D (1.5 points, 66-71%); D (1 point, 60-65%); F (0 points, 0-59%).
- Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.
- Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487- 2212 or go here.

Coursework

- Participation (15%): Attending class, completing all assignments on deadline, reading all assigned readings on deadline, taking notes, writing daily, revising, editing, studying, participating in workshops, participating in course discussions, posing pertinent questions, engaging the course materials, and being an engaging course participant.
- Quizzes (15%): There will be weekly quizzes covering assigned readings and lectures.
- Journal/Magazine Reviews (15%): Students will research and report on two creative writing journals/magazines.
- Process Journal (15%): Students will keep a daily process journal.
- Creative Writing Portfolio (25%): Students will write and workshop (three times) 25-30 pages of creative writing in the genre of their choosing with the intention of submission for publication. Portfolios made up of more than one single manuscript (poems, flash fictions, etc.) must be part of a larger coherent project.
- Final Reading (15%): Toward the end of the term, students will give a public reading of their finished work.
Course Calendar

- Tuesday, January 15: Course Intro.
- Thursday, January 17: Magazine Reviews; Begin reading *The Writing Life*. Discussion.
- Tuesday, January 22: Magazine Reviews; Continue reading *The Writing Life*. Discussion.
- Thursday, January 24: Magazine Reviews; Continue reading *The Writing Life*. Discussion.
- Tuesday, January 29: Magazine Reviews; Continue reading *The Writing Life*. Discussion.
- Thursday, January 31: Workshop Round 1; Begin reading *Writing Down the Bones*; Discussion.
- Tuesday, February 5: Workshop Round 1; Continue reading *Writing Down the Bones*; Discussion.
- Thursday, February 7: No Class, Winter Carnival.
- Tuesday, February 12: Workshop Round 1; Continue reading *Writing Down the Bones*; Discussion.
- Thursday, February 14: Workshop Round 1; Continue reading *Writing Down the Bones*; Discussion.
- Tuesday, February 19: Magazine Reviews; Begin reading *Bird By Bird*; Discussion.
- Thursday, February 21: Magazine Reviews; Continue reading *Bird By Bird*; Discussion.
- Tuesday, February 26: Magazine Reviews; Continue reading *Bird By Bird*; Discussion.
- Thursday, February 28: Magazine Reviews; Continue reading *Bird By Bird*; Discussion.
- Tuesday, March 5: Workshop Round 2; Begin reading *Believer Book of Writers*...; Discussion. (Boston)
- Thursday, March 7: Workshop Round 2; Continue reading *Believer Book of Writers*...; Discussion. (Boston)
- Tuesday, March 12: No Class, Spring Break.
- Thursday, March 14: No Class, Spring Break.
- Tuesday, March 19: Workshop Round 2; Continue reading *Believer Book of Writers*...; Discussion.
- Thursday, March 21: Workshop Round 2; Continue reading *Believer Book of Writers*...; Discussion.
- Tuesday, March 26: Magazine Reviews; Continue reading *Believer Book of Writers*...; Discussion.
- Thursday, March 28: Magazine Reviews.
- Tuesday, April 2: Magazine Reviews.
- Thursday, April 4: Magazine Reviews. (Iowa City)
- Tuesday, April 9: Workshop Round 3. (NYC)
- Thursday, April 11: Workshop Round 3. (NYC)
- Tuesday, April 16: Workshop Round 3.
- Thursday, April 18: Workshop Round 3. (MSP)
- Tuesday, April 23: Readings.
- Thursday, April 25: Readings; Final Creative Writing Portfolio Due.