

HALLUCINATIONS

Reading As A Writer
CRWR 12127
Mo 10:30am-1:20pm
Location: Logan 801

Professor: Lynn Xu
Office: Gates-Blake 412
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: lxulxu@uchicago.edu and lxulxu@gmail.com

Course Description:

In this course we ask: How is historical material made—figured/disfigured by loss, desire, violence, suffering, exhaustion, death; by restlessness and the unbearable, abyssal, vertigo of living inside time? Where is the aperture of experience? The apparitions, which partition night, its many voices, bodies which are forgotten, and then remembered, why? What is the time of writing, of reading? This course goes a little back and a little forward between the two world wars, hoping to track an itinerary of history material, its incandescence, between situations of mourning and mystical experience. Each week, students will be asked to bring in questions as well as to produce creative responses for class discussion.

Required Texts (All texts available at Seminary Coop)

Samuel Beckett: *Endgame* (Grove Press)
Aimé Césaire: *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land* (Weslyan)
Joshua Edwards: *Agonistes* (Antebooks)
Nick Twemlow: *Attributed to the Harrow Painter* (University of Iowa Press)
Ceclia Vicuña: *SABOR A MI* (Chainlinks)
Raúl Zurita: *Purgatory* (University of California Press)

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Please come prepared to discuss the readings and respond to each other's work (generated by weekly writing assignments). You will be asked to bring at least one question to class each week to put up on the board.

Presentations: Each student will sign up to present on one of the texts we read. The presentations should be no longer than 10mins and close with a set of questions for discussion.

Writing Assignments: Each week, in addition to your readings, you will be given assignments to produce creative responses in relation to the texts.

Final Project: At the end of the quarter, you will be asked to write a 15-20pg "paper" on a text (or a set of texts) we have read. (Your reading notebook should be helpful in this direction.) The format of the paper is open.

Grades: You will be graded on class participation (30%), weekly writing assignments (20%), in class presentations (20%), and the final paper (30%).

Plagiarism: Why do it? You will receive an F for the course and it will be reported to the Dean of the College. Cite sources correctly: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> (MLA Guidelines on Purdue Owl).

Privacy: Creative Writing Workshops rely on trust in a safe environment, so as to facilitate open and critical exchange while protecting a boundary of privacy. Students should be aware, however, that workshop instructors are obliged to share certain kinds of information with appropriate university administrators according to university policies aimed at providing a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students, which can be consulted at: <https://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/university>.

Reading Schedule:

1. 3/26 Introductions Etc.
2. 4/2 **Twemlow:** *Attributed to the Harrow Painter*
Twemlow: *The Laying on of Hands* (in class)
Edwards: *A Monthly Account of the Year Leading Up to the End of the World*, by *Agonistes*, *Prophet and Fulfiller* or / *The Exhausted Dream*
Twemlow/Edwards Reading Fri 3/30 @ 6pm (Seminary Coop)
3. 4/9 **Zurita:** *Purgatory*
Vicuña: *SABOR A MI*
Vicuña Lecture Tue 4/3 @ 6pm (Neubauer Collegium)
Vicuña Reading Thu 4/5 @ 6pm (Logan 801)
Guzmán: *Nostalgia for the Light* (in class)
4. 4/16 **Beckett:** *Endgame*
Hijikata: *Costume En Face* (excerpts, PDF)
Hijikata: *Summer Storm* (online)
5. 4/23 **Duras:** *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (PDF)
Freud: "Mourning and Melancholia" (PDF)
Resnais: *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (in class)
6. 4/30 **Celan:** *Selected poems* (PDF)
Adorno: "Lyric Poetry and Society" (PDF)
Resnais: *Night & Fog* (online)
7. 5/7 **Benjamin:** "Theses on the Philosophy of History" (PDF)
8. 5/14 Class Cancelled*
9. 5/21 **Césaire:** *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*
Césaire: Discourse (PDF)
Fanon: *Black Skin White Masks* (excerpts, PDF)
10. 5/28 Memorial Day/Make-up class*
Rankine: *Citizen* (E-book)
Presentations