

Writing the Body

Professor Katie Brewer Ball (KBB)

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Winter Session 2024

M-F, 1:00-5:00

Online

How does the body write? Do we trace our words with fingers and toes, with a pen and a paper, with flour or glitter or dust or the soles of our feet? Can the written word remind us that we are more than our eyes or our heads? Writing the body is an attempt to link the worlds of the written and the somatic through the act of writing. This class is both a generative creative writing course and a theoretical exploration of the ways in which the body has been rendered in literature, poetry, and philosophy. Putting queer studies, disability studies, Black studies, and Indigenous studies into conversation with prose, plays, and poetry, students will explore different strategies of embodied writing. Looking to the work of Maggie Nelson, Jean-Luc Nancy, Eileen Myles, Christina Sharpe, Aisha Sabatini Sloan, Hortense Spillers, Eve Tuck, Billy Ray Belcourt, Torrey Peters, Wendy Ortiz, Lidia Yuknavitch, Jordy Rosenberg, Gabrielle Civil, Ursula Le Guin, adrienne maree brown, and Frank O'hara students will produce a written work that moves promiscuously between theory and creative non-fiction.

Required Texts:

Lidia Yuknavitch, *The Chronology of Water*

Andrea Lawlor, *Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl*

Billy Ray Belcourt, *This Wound is a World*

Day 1: Tuesday, Jan 9

Jean Luc Nancy + Eileen Myles + Melissa Febos

Day 2: Wednesday, Jan 10

Lidia Yuknavitch, *The Chronology of Water*

Day 3: Thursday, Jan 11

Ursula Le Guin, "The Carrier Bag Theory" + Wendy Ortiz

Day 4: Friday, Jan 12

Andrea Lawlor, *Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl*

Day 5: Monday, Jan 15

In-Class WORKSHOP

Day 6: Tuesday Jan 16

Torrey Peters, *Infect Your Friends and Loved Ones*

Day 7: Wednesday Jan 17

Aisha Sabatini Sloan + Christina Sharpe + Dionne Brande

Day 8: Thursday, Jan 18

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna Samarshina + Amy Berkowitz

Day 9: Friday, Jan 19

Billy Ray Belcourt, *This Wound is a World*

Day 10: Monday, Jan 22

In-Class Workshop

READING:

You may want to start reading the two longer books by Yuknavitch and Lawlor before the class begins. Otherwise all readings are manageable within 3-4 hours on the day before class.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

You will be required to write three short pieces for this course and revise two of them for the final. The first paper is due on the first day of class, January 9th, the second on January 15th, the third on January 22nd, and the final project is due on January 29th.

Syllabus subject to change.