NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Studies
The Writer's Discourse   WRTNG-UG1334
Syllabus Spring 2014

Victoria A. Blythe, Ph. D.

January
28  Introduction to the Course
30  Introduction to Discourse

February
04  The Split Subject
06  The Writer's Journal
11  "Wrote Nothing"
13  "I Never Kept a Journal"
18  Recourse to the Journal
20  The Writer's Diary
25  "Reality I Call It"
27  From Discourse to Novel

Krisstea, Lacan, (x)
Kafka (x)
Kafka (x)
Barthes (x)
Blanchot (x)
Woolf
Woolf
Woolf

March
04  "Writing Out My Mind"
06  The Discourse Breaks Up
11  The Writer's Solitude
13  "I Am Never Alone"

18-20  Recess
25  "The Disaster Ruins Everything"
27  Disaster and Desire for Writing

Woolf
Woolf
Duras (x)
Blanchot (x)
Blanchot

April
01  The Pleasure of the Text
03  "This Text Bores Me"
08  A double Discourse
10  Writing Degree Zero
15  (Not) Confessions
17  Vouloir-Ecrire

Barthes
Barthes
Barthes
Barthes
Barthes

Pages Due

Pages Due
“What must the writer remember? Himself when he is not writing.” And so, the writer’s discourse begins: Blanchot’s query inaugurates our seminar in which we will first produce a substantial text and then engage in a discourse with it which in turn will generate a second text and reveal a process that will support the “infinite conversation” which is writing. As we write we will engage with theorists/writers and discover how they have interrogated themselves and their works, including Blanchot, Barthes, Derrida, Kristeva and Deleuze/Guattari. We will look into the conversation Barthes had with himself as he failed to write his novel; spend some time on a number of Deleuze & Guattari’s “Thousand Plateaus” and engage with Blanchot’s “Writing the Disaster”. Along the way we will encounter Kristeva’s split subject and pass through Lacan’s mirror stage in recognition and examination of the relationship of the psyche to the text. The modality of our project will be writerly self-reflection: discoursing with ourselves while writing, reading ourselves in our own texts, and engaging with a work-in-progress by means of a conversation with it.
Required Reading:

Woolf, "A Writer's Diary"
Woolf, "Mrs. Dalloway"
Barthes, "The Pleasure of the Text"
Barthes, "Barthes on Barthes"
Blanchot, "The Writing of the Disaster"

Items marked (x) will be given to you in class.

Required Writing:

A Work-in-Progress
A Writer's Discourse-in-Progress
Discourse Exchange (weekly)
In-Class Writing Experiments

Elements of the Course:

Attendance
Participation in Class
Completion of Written Work on Time
Completion of Required Reading on Time

Details of the Course:

"The Writer's Discourse" WRTNG-UG 1334
Tuesday/Thursday: 4:55- 6:10 p.m,
194 Mercer Building
Office: #431 Gallatin
Office Hours:
Telephone: 212.254.5428 weekdays; 845.679.6641 weekends
e-mail: yab3@nyu.edu
Course Objectives:

Our objective is to become familiar with our own mode of writer's discourse, our conversation with our writing-self; to hyper-consciously discourse with ourselves while writing; to read ourselves in our own texts, and to carry on the infinite conversation that is writing, in other words, to experience “the pleasure of the text”.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will derive from participation in the work of the seminar as evidenced by serious engagement with the material of the course and collegial relations with fellow student writers and respect for their work. Regular attendance is essential as is participation which includes being prepared in terms of reading and writing assignments, and contribution to class discussion and conversation. Written work will consist of the items listed in the syllabus (see supra) which will be more fully defined prior to each assignment, as well as in-class writing experiments. Reading requires thorough and careful attention to all the material assigned resulting in the ability to comment on these texts in class discussion and in written commentary.

Academic Integrity:

As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplin ary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanctions which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website [http://gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/integrity.html].