

CREW 260: MĀORI and PASIFIKA CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP – TE HIRINGA A TUHI (20 POINTS)

This is a creative writing workshop focusing on Māori and Pasifika perspectives. It is for students who wish to produce fiction, creative non-fiction, plays, screenplays or poetry which is informed by Māori or Pasifika perspectives, cultures and origins, the process of colonisation, or questions of identity and belonging. However, students with Māori/Pasifika heritage are absolutely free to write literature that does not directly address these subjects.

The writing workshop will form the heart of this course. Students will be informed by reading in various genres by Māori, Pasifika and other writers of colour and there will be several guest writers. Last summer they included Briar Grace Smith (*Waru*), Tina Makereti (*The Imaginary Lives of James Poneke*) Tusi Tamasese (*O Le Tulafale/The Orator*) and Tusiata Avia (*Wild Dogs Under My Skirt*). It is expected that issues around Māori and Pasifika writing within the dominant discourse, questions about representation and appropriation, and how to approach different genres will be discussed. Students will be encouraged to bring their cultures with them through the workshop room door.

It is recommended that students outline their cultural heritage as well as why they are interested in participating in the course in their applications. Students are encouraged to approach the course convener if they have any questions or concerns about applying.

The convener of Māori & Pasifika Writing Workshop (Te Hiringa a Tuhi) is **Victor Rodger**.

Victor says:

“When I was 19, I remember searching for literature that reflected my own specific cultural make up: that of someone who was Samoan and palagi but who had been raised palagi and therefore didn’t know how to move in the Samoan world. There was nothing out there – and so I wrote my first play, *Sons*. A lot of what we do as Māori and Pasifika writers is write ourselves and our experiences and the worlds we know into existence, be it as part of a heartfelt drama or a sensual poem or even a science fiction screenplay; and we put ourselves at the centre of the narrative, as opposed to supporting somebody else’s.”

→ see over

International Institute of Modern Letters

Victoria University of Wellington, P O Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

ENQUIRIES: Tel: (04) 463 6854 Email: modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

Website: www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters

Victor Rodger began his writing career as a cadet reporter, wrote several children's stories for Radio New Zealand Ears programme and had his first award-winning play, *Sons*, produced in 1995. Since then he has written eight plays including *Black Faggot*, *My Name is Gary Cooper* and *Club Paradiso* and recently collaborated with the dance company Black Grace on their acclaimed show *Crying Men*. A collection of his work, *Black Faggot and Other Plays* was published by Victoria University Press in 2017.

A long time writer for *Shortland Street*, his other television credits include the critically acclaimed Māori Television series, *This is Piki*. His first piece of fiction, *Like Shinderella* was included in the Māori and Pasifika anthology, *Black Marks on the White Page*, edited by Witi Ihimaera and Tina Makereti. His personal essay, 'Voyage Round My Father', was last year published in *The Best of E-Tangata*. He has also wrote the essay *Ooga Booga* for The Coconet website. He has held several writing residencies including the Fulbright- Creative New Zealand Writer in Residence at the University of Hawaii, the Robert Burns Fellowship at the University of Otago and was the 2017 Victoria University and Creative New Zealand Writer in Residence.

How to Enrol

Enrolment in CREW 260 is limited to 12 students. The prerequisite is 40 points at 200 level or approval from the Programme Director. Please note applications must include up to ten pages of writing.

Application and enrolment: must be lodged online by going to university home page and follow the links: www.wgtn.ac.nz/

Prospective applicants are recommended to visit the How to Apply page of the website. Go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters for more details.

If you have any specific course related questions please email Victor direct on: modernletters@vuw.ac.nz.

Workshops

This is a 200 level university paper consisting of 12 three hour workshops and approximately ten hours of independent study each week.

Where: at the IIML, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus

When: July-Oct (second trimester)
Mondays 10am – 1pm

Assessment

The course is assessed by a folio of writing which is submitted immediately after the final workshop. This will include at least three prose (fiction or non-fiction) pieces or ten poems. Folios are examined on a pass/fail basis by a Course Convenor.

Reading

Course readings will be available online via Nuku. The course convenor will make reading suggestions based on your individual project.

Please note that our workshops are not a classroom version of a writing manual: we do not teach a specific set of predetermined skills. Our aim is to develop the imaginative capacity and individual literary skills of emerging writers in a stimulating workshop environment.