

CREW 258 and CREW 259 THE IOWA WORKSHOP **He Tuhinga nō Tāwāhi me He Rotarota nō Tāwāhi (20 points)**

Every year we offer a special workshop taught by outstanding Creative Writing graduates from the University of Iowa. Over the summer of 2023/2024 two graduates of the Iowa Writers' Workshop will convene CREW 258 (fiction workshop) and CREW 259 (poetry workshop).

The Iowa Writers' Workshop is America's oldest and most prestigious creative writing programme, and numbers among its graduates a dozen winners of the Pulitzer Prize. Raymond Carver, John Irving and Flannery O'Connor are among the most distinguished fiction writers to have come through Iowa. Poets include Robert Bly, Jorie Graham, and US poet laureates Rita Dove and Mark Strand.

How to Enrol

Enrolment in CREW 258 and 259 is limited to 12 students in each workshop. The prerequisite is 40 points and an appropriate standard in written composition. Because of demand for places the quality of the writing sample which accompanies applications is critical in deciding admissions.

Application and enrolment: must be lodged online. Go to this link:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol>

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

Assessment

The course is assessed by a folio of writing submitted immediately after the final workshop. Folios are examined on a pass/fail basis by the Course Convenor.

Reading

There will normally be a Course Reader which available from the IIML. The Course Convenor may also make reading suggestions based on your individual project. There are also two books which will give you some idea of what to expect from our workshops as well as providing resources for developing your work. *Mutes & Earthquakes* brings together essays and creative work from a wide range of writers who have connections with the IIML. More recently, *The Exercise Book* presents favourite writing exercises across a variety of genres, including poetry, prose and scriptwriting.

International Institute of Modern Letters

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

Website www.wgtn.ac.nz/modernletters

Application deadline: 1 November 2023

Course dates for both CREW 258 and CREW 259 : 8 January – 16 February 2024

Timetable:

CREW 258: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am – 1pm

CREW 259: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 – 5pm

FICTION WORKSHOP (limited to 12 students):

Course Convenor **Róza Pazdírek** writes:

What makes a story unforgettable? Why do we return to certain stories and not to others? In this class, we will explore our personal matrices behind what we (re-)read and write as well as the fundamental craft that goes into a great story. Part critical discussion, part community workshop, we will begin by learning from the masterwork of writers like Lauren Groff, Denis Johnson, Claire Vaye Watkins, James Joyce, Haruki Murakami, and Sterling HolyWhiteMountain, then apply those lessons to the making and critique of our own fiction. Participants will be expected to complete a series of short take-home writing exercises, provide feedback on the writing of their peers, and contribute a piece of their own writing to workshop.

Róza Pazdírek is a Czech-American writer and translator. A recent graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, their work has appeared internationally in *Guernica*, *PANK*, *The Stockholm Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Andromeda Spaceways*, and other publications.

POETRY WORKSHOP (limited to 12 students)

Course Convenor **Steven Willis** writes:

Students will develop an advanced understanding of the basic units of poetry analysis (syntax, point of view, language, imagery, theme, tone & sound) and will be able to properly identify their value in contemporary poetry. Students will develop the ability to collaborate with a chosen *archive* or theme creating a final portfolio with 20 new poems.

Students will hand in 4 "Studio Packets" due the Thursday of every month. These packets will include a minimum of four newly crafted original poems, or 4 new and one revised poem from previous packets.

Born and raised in Chicago, IL performance poet **Steven Willis** uses his poetic and theatrical background to embark on the daunting task of creatively articulating African American culture. With art heavily influenced by urban life and religion, Steven mixes elements of theatrical performance with formal teachings of anthropology and political theory to express his eclectic personal narrative. Willis is a contributing writer to the Breakbeat Poets Anthology, NYU's National Council for Teacher Journal, is a 3 time Individual Work Poetry Slam finalist, and former slam team member of the Nuyorican Poets café. Willis received his MFA in acting from the University of Iowa in 2021 and the Iowa Writer's Workshop for poetry in 2023. His first full collection *A Peculiar People* was released with Button Poetry in 2022.