

CRWR 595: Special Topic: After – Influences & Imitations
Fall 2020 | Section 01, CRN: 73577
Wednesday | 6:00p – 8:50p
Class: 305 Liberal Arts Building

Instructor: Sean Hill
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Office Hours: W 2:00 – 5:00 or by appt.
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Note: The syllabus is subject to changes as announced in class and on Moodle.

UM Course Description of CRWR 595 – Special Topics | 3 Credits.
(R-9) Offered intermittently. Experimental offerings of visiting professors, experimental offerings of new courses, or one-time offerings of current topics. Level: Graduate

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We write in a sea of influences and, as practitioners of this craft we call writing, it behooves us to explore those influences. In this class, we will discuss the work of those on whose shoulders we stand in order to get out of the silencing sea. The instructor and students will provide critical and creative texts (not limit to written works) that have informed their work. We will explore the ways in which we carry on conversations with the work of other writers and creators. Students will explore their various influences and start conversations and engagements with new influences. Creative and critical assignments will be generated through the class explorations.

COURSE GOALS:

CRWR 595 is a writing intensive course designed to 1) foster a positive, supportive workshop environment where students feel comfortable bringing work-in-progress for focused critique and feedback, 2) produce new writing, 3) broaden and deepen our understanding of the revision process, and thereby produce writing of a quality suitable for inclusion in thesis manuscripts and for publication, and 4) to hone the critical skills necessary to analyze writing.

CRITIQUING WORK:

When it comes to critiquing each other's writing, I ask that you bring written critiques to class, and I encourage you to take the work on its own terms rather than hold them up to a rigid paradigm of what you think a poem, story, or essay should be. Begin by praising the successes of the piece and then take an interrogative approach. Consider what the piece seeks to accomplish as well as the effect(s) of its form and content and try to understand its internal logic. Focus on what makes the

piece necessary. I think this makes you a better audience for the piece and hopefully provides a more useful experience for your classmate whose work is being critiqued.

PUBLISHING/SUBMITTING FOR PUBLICATION:

We will discuss publishing in this workshop. And in addition to discussing publishing you will each submit your own writing to literary journals for publication.

GRADING:

40% Writing submitted to weekly workshop.

25% Participation (attendance, discussion, critiques, submitting writing for publication)

20% Influence Talk: You will deliver a 20-minute introducing the class to your influences and discussing some point(s) of craft feel the work informs. You will also include at least one Writing Prompt to offer to the class.

15% Final Project / Revision Portfolio: Revisions of **one** of your pieces from the workshop, all of your drafts of that piece and a one to three page essay (typed double-spaced) about your revision process due at the end of the term.

WRITTEN WORK:

1. Critiques: Thoughtful critique (half-page minimum).
2. Influence Talk & Imitation Challenge: A written version/script of your 20-minute talk on a topic of writing craft of your choice.
3. Writing: due to the workshop during the term.
4. End of term: A single thoroughly revised piece, all of your drafts of that piece and a one to three-page essay (typed double-spaced) about your revision process due at the end of the term.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

You must be ready to share your ideas and insights on all the workshop pieces and any assigned readings. And because you'll be getting feedback and comments from your classmates on your writing, this also means you need to come to class prepared to make respectful yet rigorous criticisms of the work presented in workshop.

DISABILITY SERVICES FOR STUDENTS:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students.

If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

This is my first semester at UM, and starting a semester in the middle of a global pandemic is a first for us all. There is a fair amount of uncertainty about how this semester will unfold, so we'll have to be flexible. We may need to modify this course. I will update the course Moodle as needed, and we may be using Zoom to meet virtually. The health and safety of our class and community is a priority. Please follow these guidelines while in our class:

1. You're required to wear a mask while in the classroom
2. Each student is provided with a cleaning kit. You're expected to clean your personal work space when you arrive for class, and before you leave
3. Classrooms may have one-way entrances / exits to minimize crowding
4. You should not congregate outside the classroom before and after class
5. Specific seating arrangements will be used to ensure social distancing and support contact tracing efforts
6. Class attendance will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts
7. Drinking and eating food are strongly discouraged within the classroom since it involves mask removal
8. Stay home if you feel sick and/or if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, and please contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330
9. Up-to-Date COVID-19 Information from the University of Montana on the following websites:
UM Coronavirus Website: www.umt.edu/coronavirus
UM COVID-19 Fall 2020 website: www.umt.edu/coronavirus/fall2020.php
10. Please help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 outside the classroom—practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands thoroughly and often. This is for your safety and well-being and that of our community.

CAVEAT: I reserve the right to change and amend this syllabus as necessary.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Provisional Schedule of IMPORTANT DATES

Week One
Aug 19 Introduction to Course

Week Two
Aug 26 Workshop 1 A

Week Three
Sep 2 Workshop 1 B

Week Four
Sep 9 Workshop 1 C

Week Five
Sep 16 Workshop 2 A

Week Six
Sep 23 Workshop 2 B

Week Seven
Sep 30 Workshop 2 C

Week Eight
Oct 7 Workshop 3 A

Week Nine
Oct 14 Workshop 3 B

Week Ten
Oct 21 Workshop 3 C

Week Eleven
Oct 28 Workshop 4 A

Week Twelve
Nov 4 Workshop 4 B

Week Thirteen
Nov 11 Veterans' Day NO Class

Week Fourteen
Nov 18 Workshop 4 C
Last Day of Class