

Course Guide for Winter 2021

Any questions, please contact the LSWA office by e-mail lswa@umich.edu.

Please note: LSWA will waive the course fee for any student who finds the cost prohibitive. Please contact the LSWA office.

Important Registration Dates

Pre-Registration Backpacking Begins: Nov. 9, 2020

Registration by Appointment for Undergrads Begins: Nov. 19, 2020

LSWA 140.001 Art in Private Spaces

Instructor: Mark Tucker

Date/Time: M/W 4-5:30pm

Location: Remote

Fees: \$150

Course Description: This course will explore how rethinking our limitations in the time of Covid-19 could actually have a positive effect on our creative process. Being limited in studio space, art materials, human contact, and more, may open us up to a deeper exploration of our interior worlds culminating in the creation of intimate artworks designed primarily by and for an audience of one. No prior art experience required for this online course; however, it will be expected that students possess an excellent work ethic including a strong desire to revise and improve their creative work based on constructive criticism. All art supplies, including delivery, are included in the lab fee.

Note: *Fulfills LSA's Creative Expression requirement*

This is an online course with mandatory synchronous attendance required. This course employs labor-based grading. Grading is not dependent on talent, but on effort and personal growth. This course will require the regular use of Zoom (with camera), Google Drive, and email.

LSWA 140.002 Discovering Yourself through Drawing and Painting

Instructor: Mark Tucker

Date/Time: T/TH 4-5:30pm

Location: Remote

Fees: \$150

Course Description: This course will introduce students to several principles of drawing and painting through a series of challenging projects, including self-portraits, still-life drawing and painting, color theory, painting from nature, and drawing/painting from the imagination. These projects are designed to assist students at all levels of visual literacy and are scaffolded to help students learn to "see" while becoming more adept at expressing themselves creatively and purposefully. No prior art experience required for this online course; however, it will be expected that students possess an excellent work

ethic including a strong desire to revise and improve their creative work based on constructive criticism. All art supplies, including delivery, are included in the lab fee.

Note: *Fulfills LSA's Creative Expression requirement*

This is an online course with mandatory synchronous attendance required. This course employs labor-based grading. Grading is not dependent on talent, but on effort and personal growth. This course will require the regular use of Zoom (with camera), Google Drive, and email.

LSWA 228.001 Telling Stories: The Rhetoric and Representation of Race and Ethnicity

Instructor: Scott Beal

Date/Time: M/W 11am-12:30pm

Location: Remote

Fees: n/a

Course Description: In *Storytelling for Social Justice*, Lee Anne Bell writes, "The diverse groups that make up the United States provide a rich source of stories to draw upon, but in a deeply racialized society stained by structural racism, not all stories are equally acknowledged, valued, or affirmed...Some stories are supported by the power structure, while others must fight tenaciously to be heard." Bell's words imply two meanings of "telling stories": by telling and being open to many different stories we can expand our understanding of what it means to live in this country; but also, stories themselves "tell" or reveal a deeper understanding of how power shapes narratives around race. In this course on writing and rhetoric you will examine an array of stories that shed light on race and ethnicity, applying a set of critical perspectives to look beyond the surface of the stories apparent in all sorts of texts, including film, television, speeches, fiction, poetry, photographs, art, comedy, and music. Writing for this class includes a personal journal in which you track your responses and the development of your ideas, an end of semester reflection, and three papers examining the ways different stories "tell" us something about which "stories are supported," and why and how others "must fight tenaciously to be heard."

Note: *Fulfills LSA's Race and Ethnicity distribution requirement and LSA's Humanities requirement*

Twice weekly class meetings will be held synchronously via Zoom, with an emphasis on discussion and collaborative activities. Required reading and writing assignments will be completed asynchronously via Canvas. We will also make use of tools such as Google docs for collaborative and interactive activities. No exams. Weekly reflective writing assignments and three analytical essays will be completed and submitted asynchronously.

LSWA 230.001 The Playwright and the Dramaturg

Instructor: Shelley Manis

Date/Time: T/TH 11:30am-1pm

Location: Remote

Fees: n/a

Course Description: This course is a deep-dive into collaborative processes of playwriting and dramaturgy. Playwrights tend to get what limited glory there is around critically and/or popularly celebrated plays, but what many people outside the world of theater (and increasingly TV and film as well) don't know is that dramaturgs often play as crucial a role in the development of new work as playwrights/screenwriters themselves. Successful dramaturgs and playwrights alike develop expertise in writing, theater history and production, theatrical genres and structures, character development, and

the like—and their collaboration can make all the difference between an “ok” play and a major success. In this course, students will try their hand at both playwriting and dramaturgy, and we’ll create and produce a (virtual) 10-minute play festival by the end of term. We’ll try to figure out what makes an excellent play work, as well as what makes an excellent playwright and/or an excellent dramaturg. We’ll spend the first third of the course on an overview of the arts of dramaturgy and playwriting through reading and discussing instructional texts by experts, reverse-engineering playtexts and recorded performances, and talking with working playwrights and dramaturgs. We’ll shift focus in the 2nd third of the class to developing and, ultimately, producing a small festival of our own new work. (As you might guess, then, there will be requirements outside of class time to make this happen.)

This course will include active learning and discussion in-class, experimentation with different kinds of writing (analyses, proposals, annotated bibliographies, audience outreach materials such as program notes and websites, and of course, play texts) and long-term collaboration. Students will read theoretical texts, instructional texts, and plays (short and full-length), and they’ll have the opportunity to (virtually) watch live and recorded performance as well as discuss playwriting and dramaturgy with working professionals. Everyone will be provided extensive feedback both from me and from peers and will have reasonable/appropriate artistic freedom. The course grading scheme is labor-based.

Note: Fulfills LSA’s Creative Expression requirement

Discussions will be both synchronous (on Zoom) and asynchronous (Slack), and full-class workshops will be synchronous; small group workshops will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous, depending on each group's preference. This is a labor-based grading course with no tests--only projects. We will use Zoom for our synchronous meetings and one-on-one conferences, Canvas for course schedule, assignment slots, and course grades; a shared Google Drive for readings, collaborative session notes, drafts, and critique letters; and Slack for asynchronous discussions.

LSWA 230.002 Poetry & Justice

Instructor: Scott Beal

Date/Time: T/TH 10:00-11:30am

Location: Remote

Fees: n/a

Course Description: Have you read “Imagine the Angels of Bread” by Martín Espada? You should [read it now](#). Or better, [watch his performance from the 2009 Dodge Poetry Festival](#), which is fire. In his brief intro, he claims this work as “a poem of the political imagination” and quotes the visionary poet William Blake: “What is now proved was once only imagined.” In this course we’ll read a lot of fiery, imaginative poems like Espada’s, with a focus on very contemporary work published within the last two years, including brand-new work being published online in 2021. We’ll consider what “poetry of the political imagination” might mean, and how the visions we imagine might pave the way for more honest, generous, compassionate, just lives. Written assignments will include weekly reflections on course readings, weekly poetry prompts, and a final portfolio and statement of purpose.

Note: Fulfills LSA’s Creative Expression requirement

Twice weekly class meetings will be held synchronously via Zoom, with an emphasis on discussion and collaborative activities. Required reading and writing assignments will be completed asynchronously via Canvas. We will also make use of tools such as Google docs for collaborative and interactive activities.

No exams. Writing assignments (weekly reflections and poetry prompts) will be completed and submitted asynchronously, with a final portfolio and statement of purpose due at the end of the semester.

LSWA 230.003 The Children's Story: Re-thinking Children's Literature

Instructor: Carol Tell

Date/Time: T/TH 1:00-2:30pm

Location: Remote

Fees: n/a

Course Description: “. . . I don't write children's books. . . I write, and somebody says: that's for children.” --Maurice Sendak

The best children's books stay with us; they grow and deepen as we mature. Rather than label these pieces of artwork as “childish,” in this class we will embrace their artistry, sophistication, humanity, and courageous themes. We will examine the complex ways that children (and animals) are depicted, and consider how children's books portray different social identities and traumas. We'll be reading diverse genres of children's literature: storybooks (*The Cat and the Hat*, *Eloise*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Snowy Day*), fairy tales (the Brothers Grimm), children's poetry (Shel Silverstein), novels (*Charlotte's Web*, *The Hunger Games*); we'll also watch a few films (*The Lion King*, *The Florida Project*). But the emphasis will be on your own creative work. For your culminating project, each of you will write and illustrate your own children's book.

Note: *Fulfills LSA's Creative Expression requirement*

Students will be expected to attend each meeting synchronously during the scheduled time. The course will be discussion-based. Along with readings and short experimental assignments, each student will be required to write, illustrate, and workshop a children's book in the genre of their choice. All assignments will be turned into Canvas. There are no exams. We will use Zoom and Canvas.

LSWA 230.004 Writing in Motion: Composing with Bodies, Words, and Other Media

Instructor: Naomi Silver

Date/Time: M/W 10:00-11:30am

Location: Remote

Fees: n/a

Course Description: This class will explore the ways we can make arguments, tell stories, and test ideas through movement in space and through moving images on a screen, as well as through words written on a page or spoken aloud. We will enter this process through the thematic frame of how arts—and movement arts, such as dance, in particular—engage with and enact social justice. To that end, we will read texts in a variety of genres and media that consider this relationship, including films, reviews, literary works, photographs, and more. Because our class will be meeting online, we will explore how members of the dance world have adapted their art for virtual, distanced spaces, and we will view and try our hand at composing screendances—that is, movement compositions that are created for the screen rather than for live performance. Our writing this semester will consist of reflections, interpretations, analyses, and arguments created both in words, in movement, and other media, such as video. We will be moving almost every class—in our own home spaces—in short improvised and composed responses to prompts of various kinds, and we will create longer compositions to share at the end of the semester. No prior dance experience is necessary to succeed in this class—just a willingness

to move and to experiment with new compositional modes and media!

Note: Fulfills LSA's Creative Expression requirement

Class meetings will be synchronous, though they will also be recorded and available on our Canvas site. We will be engaging together in movement exercise and discussion during each session. We may schedule small-group workshops outside of class time, as needed, and there will be asynchronous reading, writing, and viewing assignments. Most assignments for this class will be asynchronous, though small-group collaborations will likely need to take place synchronously, outside of the regular class time. We will view student compositions together in class. There are no exams for this class. Canvas will be the primary platform for course materials, assignments, and some interactive components, such as the Discussion tool. We will use Zoom for all of our synchronous meetings. Students should have access to a camera and microphone. We will also use video recording and editing software, though the precise tools will depend on student access and preferences.

ENGLISH 223.003 Creative Writing

Instructor: TBD

Date/Time: M/W 2:30-4PM

Location: Remote

Fees: n/a

Course Description: Coming Soon

Note: Though this course is offered by the English Department, it does fulfill your LSWA course requirement for the winter semester. The class is capped at twenty students, and ten seats have been reserved specifically for Lloyd Scholars. Only one section of this course fulfills the LSWA course requirement.