

ENG 418: Creative Writing Senior Seminar with Jenny Johnson

Tues 4:00-6:50 p.m.

Spring 2021



A careful calibration of humility and arrogance is required, with maybe a healthy dose of foolhardiness and/or masochism, take your pick, thrown in. Or to speak from personal experience, I tend to begin writing a poem with a sense that I know how to navigate a territory I'm entering—it's not until the end, or more likely halfway through, that I remember the truth, abandon myself again to being lost, and just hope to arrive somewhere wiser, though no less lost, in one piece.

-- Carl Phillips, from *The Art of Daring*

This is the Creative Writing Capstone Course, and it will be taught as both a traditional class and as a one-on-one independent study. Students should see it as a culmination of the creative writing sequence in which one can work in poetry, literary fiction, or literary nonfiction. Each student will come up with a project proposal to be reviewed and approved by the instructor and mentor. Class time will involve both the study of student and published work. Authors we read may include Natalie Diaz, Ross Gay, Ann Pancake, Percival Everett, Kirstin Valdez-Quade, Jenny Ofil, Alison Bechdel, Helen MacDonald, Robin Wall Kimmerer, among others. We will also discuss what constitutes a “writing life” and hear from graduate students about pursuing further study.