

ENG 318: Topics in Creative Writing
Writing About Places & Ecosystems with Jenny Johnson
Spring 2025
Tues. /Thurs., 10:00 - 11:15 am.
Colson Hall G10



In this cross-genre Topics Course, you'll have the chance to write with curiosity about the places you know and the ecosystems you're a part of. We'll read widely and across genre, full works and excerpts by: Rebecca Solnit, Robin Wall Kimmerer, sam sax, Tyree Day, Layli Longsoldier, Joy Priest, Oliver Baez Bendorf, Amber Caron, and Laura Marris to name a few. You'll be asked to keep a notebook for recording thoughts, ideas, observations. You'll also be asked to try weekly in-class writing experiments, close read works we are studying, and workshop new drafts of poetry, fiction, and/or nonfiction. A portfolio that represents your best work will be due at the end of the term.

Please be in touch if you have any questions about this course:
jenny.johnson@mail.wvu.edu

ENG 313: Creative Writing Workshop: Poetry with Jenny Johnson
Spring 2025
Tues./Thurs., 1:00-2:15 p.m.
Colson Hall G10



In this poetry workshop, you will write and revise new poems, and we will close read your poems. Simultaneously, you will be asked to close read the work of your peers, to understand how a good poem works, to learn what it's *doing*, so that you might learn how to *do* just that thing in your work. Our focus this semester will be on the study on long poems, sequences, and hybrid works. As a challenge you will be asked to write a long poem or sequence by the end of the term. The aim behind such a study is to encourage you to sustain your inquiries and to practice many kinds of turns, all while balancing coherence and surprise when working across a wider formal field. Because such work is certainly not easy, we will make room for levity, play, and joy amid such processes! A few books we will study include: *Mothman Apologia* by Robert Wood Lynn, *Short Film Starring My Beloved's Red Bronco* by K. Iver, and *Root Fractures* by Diana Khoi Nguyen.

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ENG 213: Creative Writing Workshop: Poetry with Jenny Johnson
Spring 2025
Tues/Thurs. 2:30-3:45 p.m.
Hodges Hall 116



This is a photo of poet Muriel Rukeyser's eye taken by her friend, the artist Berenice Abbott.

Hello, poets! This course is an introduction to reading and writing poetry. Beginner poets are encouraged to sign-up. In this class, you will learn how to shape your daily perceptions and experiences into poems. Crucial to being a writer is maintaining a ritualistic writing practice, so you will be asked to generate new material weekly. One of the best ways to grow as writers is by reading, so simultaneously you be asked to close read poems. We will also work together to develop a vocabulary for talking about the craft of poems, so that you will gain confidence sharing and offering feedback on each other's work. So that you might learn more about your own voice in relation to other poets, we will be reading a range of contemporary poetry by writers, such as, Ada Limón, Ocean Vuong, Richard Siken, Jennifer Chang, Ross Gay, Shira Erlichman, and Natalie Diaz, to name a few.

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