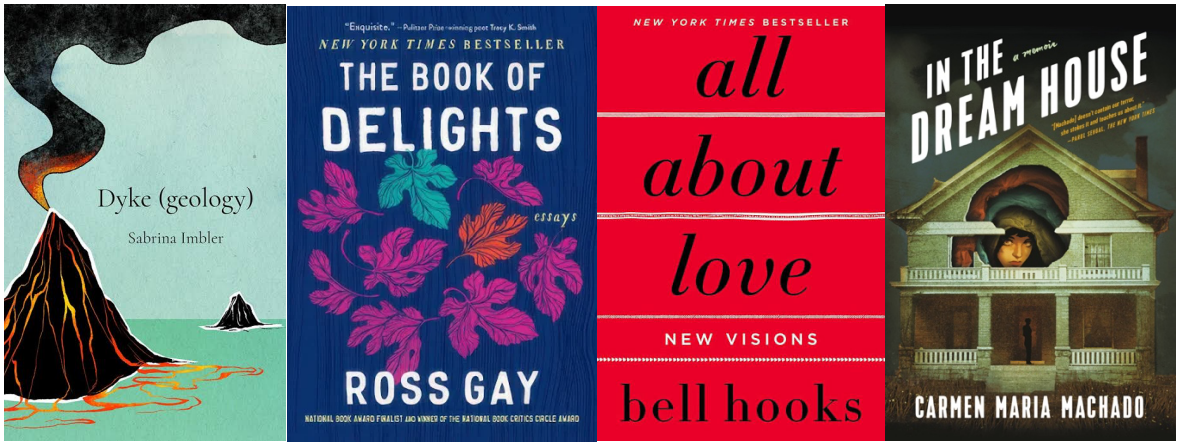
ENG 318: Topics in Creative Writing
Love is a Verb with Jenny Johnson
Spring 2026, Course # 10268
Tues. /Thurs., 11:30- 12:45 p.m.



In this cross-genre Topics Course, you'll have the chance to write expansively and unexpectedly about love (love as a verb, as a practice, as a form of inquiry, love vs. harm, love as the ultimate cliche to be deepened and complicated in writing, romantic love, yes, and also love as a devotion to place, family, other forms of kinship, friendship, community, not to mention love of self and solitude). We'll be reading widely and across genre, full works and excerpts by: Rainier Maria Rilke, bell hooks, Ross Gay, Sabrina Imbler, Franny Choi, Oliver Baez Bendorf, Alison Bechdel, Emily Skaja, Ann Pancake, Carmen Maria, Machado, 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're 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 and your eligibility to enroll: jenny.johnson@mail.wvu.edu