



RAI Interdisciplinary Summer School 2014

Learning to Write: The Writer, The Artist and Their Notebook

Rothermere American Institute, June 30th – July 9th 2014

Course Schedule

A simple lunch will be served everyday from 1-2pm

Morning and afternoon sessions will include a tea break

Monday June 30th

Morning: 9.45am-12.45pm

Written Scraps and Morsels: Emily Dickinson's Envelope Poems and Sylvia Plath's Scrapbooks

This session will explore the written scraps and fragments of writers such as Emily Dickinson, Emily Bronte and Sylvia Plath as they write around the edges of their domestic and familial lives on scraps of paper. The session will include Plath's scrapbook collages, some rare photographs and poetry manuscripts. **Session led by Sally Bayley**

Afternoon: 2-5pm

Living with Writing: Designing a Writing App

This session run as a writing workshop, beginning with the idea of writing as a spatial experience closely related to the forms and structures of architecture. Students will be encouraged to think about the structure of essays, short stories and poems as something akin to the structure of a residence with rooms containing furniture as holding spaces for ideas and doors and windows as forms of crossing points between one idea and another. This session is part of an on-going collaborative project with student artists and designers from the Royal College of Art. **Session led by Sally Bayley and Sanders Bernstein, Oxford Graduate, Editor of The Bad Version, and former President of the Harvard Advocate.**

Tuesday July 1st

Morning: 9.45am-12.45pm

Submerged Forms and Buried Voices: Poetry in the Making

This seminar will lead students through a series of unpublished poetry manuscripts, letters and journal entries of Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes and Emily Dickinson. The majority of the session will be spent with the work of Emily Dickinson. Students will work with the often resistant surface of individual handwriting and reclaim from writers' deletions and textual variants the submerged and forgotten forms of imagery unavailable in published form. The aim of this class will be the creation of a voice piece built from the unpublished works of these writers. **Session led by Sally Bayley and Stephen Pickles of Oxford School of Drama.**

Afternoon: 2-5pm

The Voices and Personae of Emily Dickinson: A Musical Workshop and Recital

Accompanist and Dickinson scholar, Nicole Panizza of Coventry University, will lead a workshop exploring the lyrical voices and personae of poet Emily Dickinson in musical forms. Working with Dickinson's poems and letters, Ms. Panizza will lead students into an understanding of Dickinson's relationship to hymns, ballads and other forms of poetry and song. The workshop will culminate in a recital for piano in the chapel of Harris Manchester College.

Wednesday July 2nd

Morning: 9.45-12.45pm

Two Versions of One Thing: The Poetic Practice of F.T. Prince.

This workshop will explore the poetic revisions of important modern poet F.T. Prince whose manuscripts and papers are held at the University of Southampton. Students will be led through Prince's process of revising and revisionary in his manuscripts but also his personal writings, including letters and notebooks. **The session will be led by Southampton University Ph. D student Bevil Luck and Sally Bayley.**

Afternoon: 3.30-6.30pm with an early evening recital

Composer and poetry scholar, Will May, will lead a workshop exploring the poetry of English poet, F.T. Prince. The session will culminate in an original composition for soprano and strings responding entitled 'The Beacon (A Muse for William May)', in response to Prince's thoughts about America found in his poem, 'The Tears of a Muse in America'. May's musical text will work from Prince's notebooks and poetic fragments in order to capture the voices of those female poets, particularly Susan Howe and Louise Bogan, who were influenced by Prince's work. 'The Beacon' will be performed in an outdoor (garden) music room in East Oxford and will include drinks and refreshments.

Drafting a Story

Thursday July 3rd

Morning: 9.45-12.45pm

This session will explore the notebooks, letters and drafts of writer Raymond Chandler whose papers are held at the Bodleian Library, Oxford. The focus of the workshop will be Chandler's experiments with figurative language in his writing notebooks as a way of devising snappy and charismatic dialogue for his screenplay, *The Big Sleep*. **The session will be led by Chandler expert Martin Hitchcock.**

Afternoon: 2-4.30pm

Award winning short story writer and entrepreneur, Anthony Howcroft, will lead a workshop on the form of the short story, relating the craft of tight narrative to the processes of narrative structure and storytelling essential for selling products and ideas in the world of business.

Friday July 4th

Morning: 9.30-11.45am

Inside the Archives:

The Notebooks, letters and Manuscripts of Poet Thom Gunn, a session led by Gunn scholar, Andrew Blades. The seminar will explore the relationship between limits and licence in Gunn's work, the interplay between the 'formal' and the 'free', working particularly with archival material taken from Gunn's diaries.

Afternoon: 12.45pm-2.45pm followed by tea

BBC Journalist, broadcaster and writer Charlie Lee-Potter will run a workshop on journalistic writing. The workshop will begin by looking at examples of the best contemporary American literary journalism and will go on to offer practical advice on writing news stories and features, as well as writing scripts for broadcast purposes. Participants will have the opportunity to try out their own writing skills during the afternoon.

3-4.30pm Stephen Pickles of the Oxford School of Drama will lead a session exploring **Versions of Hamlet**, which will consider some of the many transformations Shakespeare's play and the Prince of Denmark have enjoyed, or endured, including Hamlet's dazzling afterlives in music, opera and film.

A Play:

Evening: (6pm in the Rothermere American Institute Princess Margaret Garden)

Drinks and refreshments from 5.30pm with music by Jack Harris, singer-songwriter

Award winning playwright and actress, Elisabeth Gray, will perform a triptych theatrical piece exploring the relationship between the words and roles of Amherst poet, Emily Dickinson, Shakespeare's Hamlet and the legendary lyricist, Bob Dylan. Singer-Songwriter Jack Harris will perform the music and lyrics of Dylan. The show will last 45 minutes and will be followed by a discussion with Dickinson and Shakespearean scholars and members of the cast.

Saturday July 5

Morning: 10-1pm

Turning Books into Art:

Oxford scholar, John Warriner, will lead a session on the work of William Blake and W.B. Yeats

Book artist and scholar, Fox Irving, will share her experience working with relationship the manuscripts and papers of several writers, including Sylvia Plath and Samuel Beckett. The workshop will explore the relationship between words and visual representation of the writer and their representation.

Afternoon: 2-4pm

Turning Poetry into Music: Playing with Ballads

Award winning singer-song writer, Jack Harris, will lead a workshop in the grounds of the Rothermere American Institute exploring the relationship between the ballad as a form of song, story and poetry. The class will include live performance.

Sunday July 6th: Day Off

Monday July 7th

Morning: 9.45am-12.45pm

Inside the Archives: the Story of Hart Crane, Poet:

Hart Crane Scholar, Peter Riley will lead an interactive session with Hart Crane's manuscripts from the Butler Library, Columbia University. The seminar will explore Crane's revisions of his *Voyages II* manuscript. Dr. Riley will also look at Crane's role within the world of New York advertising and print culture and ask questions about Hart Crane as a 'bad boy' of modern poetry.

Afternoon: 2-4pm with a tea break

Making an Animated Film from Poetry:

Animator Suzie Hanna of Norwich University College of the Arts will explore her engagement with the work of Hart Crane through animated film. Hanna will lead students through the artistic decisions that go into turning the compressed language of poetic metaphor into the language of moving images and show the process of research and aesthetic decision making that went into making the film, 'Proem: To Brooklyn Bridge', inspired by the poetry of Hart Crane.

Tuesday July 8th:

Morning: 9.45-12noon

Memory and Movement in the Essay

Sally Bayley will lead a writing workshop exploring the relationship between memory and movement in essay writing. Beginning with the essays and reminiscences of Virginia Woolf, students will discuss ways in which essay writing relies upon mnemonic patterns and repetitions of various structures of thought and movement.

Afternoon: 2-4pm

Memory and Movement in the Body:

Kate Flatt, choreographer from The Royal Ballet School will lead a session on the relationship between memory, the body and writing, using photography, portraits and imagined environments.

Weds July 9th:

Morning: 10am-12noon

Black Bodies, Black Memories:

Professor Celeste Marie-Bernier will lead a session on the relationship between bodies and cultural memory in the work of African American painter, Jacob Lawrence and his contemporaries. Professor Bernier will draw upon rarely seen archival material.

Afternoon: Tutorials/Writing workshop.