

CRCRTH 630

CRITICISM AND CREATIVITY IN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

Introduction

- Name / pronoun that you prefer
- Where are you (from)?
- How the course fits into your studies, what interests you about topic
- Your experiences in courses of this format (hybrid where online and face-to-face participation is combined)

Freewriting

What do I hope will happen during this semester, so that I can move my work and life projects forward? How do I want to be supported? How can I offer support?

Course Processes

Overall question:

How can exploring literature and the arts help to bring about the critical and creative thinking that is most needed at this time, both personally and across the wider community?

Course Processes: PBL

Format: variation of project-based learning (“collaborative exploration”)

1. Start with a theme
2. Explore for multiple weeks
3. End up with Written/Creative products
4. Start over with a new theme

Course Processes: PBL, Exploring the Theme

- Key issue: the “gap” between the description of theme, written/creative product
- Main activity of the course is to take the steps needed to fill that gap – identify ambiguities, make choices for yourself, narrow scope of work
- Course as community of support

Course Processes: PBL, Exploring the Theme (cont.)

- Independent work: readings general sources assigned in class, identifying others that you find
- Class meetings – dialogue as a generative process to help define steps, use small and large group discussions
- Try to identify “principles and practices”
- Culminate in Written/Creative Product

Course Processes: PBL, Exploring the Theme (cont.)

Progressing through class for each Theme:

1. Introductory class activities
2. “Dialogue” class meetings – focus on bringing together ideas (+ conferences)
3. Work-in-progress presentation given in class
4. Submission of Written/Creative Product

Course Processes: Literature/Arts Reflection Journal

- Way to use a specific creative work/s as a source of reflection
- Connect “critical thinking” and/or “creative thinking” between what you observe in the creative work, and how it is meaningful or useful for your life
- Identify first creative work and start journaling by week 3

General Expectations

- A rough estimate of how may expect to spend time outside of class:
- About 1-1.5 hrs/week reading assigned materials, general class follow-up
- About 1-2 hrs/week exploring directions for your Written/Creative Product
- About 1 hr/week reviewing the creative work for your journal
- About 1 hr/week writing journal entry