Every one attending this course is already a writer. You have found your inner voice and tuned into it. You have experienced writing, and are familiar with your "inner-grammar", your personal way of expression, and your singular style and rhythm. Together we will enhance your creativity and increase the volume of your work. This is a round-table course; not a frontal class. More like a writers' workshop, therefore you are an active part and will be required to participate and contribute.

The emphasis will be on the best tool you have: imagination. You will explore, develop, nurture and cultivate your imagination. You will farther explore your senses, your capacity to observe, to listen to yourself and to others, and to search other voices in books and in other forms of art. You will write varied exercises, read and analyze texts and provide constant feedback for your fellow students' writings. You will experience different techniques of narration, and diver forms of writing: you will distinguish between biography, autobiography, short story, novel, poetry, fiction and non-fiction. You will write about personal and impersonal happenings, about thoughts and feelings, and you will be required to relate imaginary and real experiences in a clear way.

The purpose of the course is to help you express yourself with no inhibitions and prejudices, without fear of criticism, self-consciousness, lack of confidence, or of training. There are lots of stories out there, all you have to do is tune into them and tell them in your unique voice.

Some of the writing assignments are: automatic writing, keeping diaries, adopting different styles, observing, describing and retelling real and imaginary stories. There will be an emphasis on editing and reediting without losing your personal finger-print and language. Some improvisations, inspired by you and by
other students, will take place in class. Being creative means flowing with your imagination without constraint.

There will be oral presentations and you will be required to address the class and speak without using notes. The topics will be partly selected by you and partly assignments given by the instructor. You have the liberty to share with the class any book, play, film you want to by writing and/or talking about it.

4-8 of the written assignments will be graded. You will be required to work on a compilation of your short stories, novels, poems that you might present as a final essay. There will be other un-graded assignments relating to reading, researching on line and in library and mainly writing and re-writing.

The major, graded assignments will be:

A. A topic you will choose at the beginning of the semester. It will be an issue you are involved with and are willing to pursue in depth. There will be space for different subjects that interest you.

B. You will be required to write essays about articles, novels, short stories, poems, plays and films that inspire you.

C. There will be a constant exchange of tasks amongst you and your fellow students: constructive criticism on each paper read in class and editing each other's assignments.

D. You will be asked to keep a diary of your reading as well as about different interactions that will take place in class, e.g. the way we judge people by unimportant details like dress or way of speech. We will observe the way we let our ISJ (Interior Supreme Judge) intervene with our writings, as well as with our different interactions and relationships.

E. There will be one assignment at least about the way you view your future, as well as the world's future.

F. Some of the assignments will be presented in front of the class; you will talk in your turn about several chosen subjects. The emphasis is on talking and debating, not reading notes.

G. A good deal of the assignments will be determined by your choices and inclinations. We could have as many as 4 different assignments simultaneity determined by you and your fellow students' choices.
**Purposes**

1. Get you in touch with your creativity.
2. Enhance your proficiency in writing, reading and discussing topics in class.
3. Increase your self-confidence in writing and in making speeches in class.
4. Enrich your vocabulary and fluency in writing and in talking.
5. Expose you to different forms of literature as well as to varied styles.
6. Demonstrate there are several ways to view the world around us and they are all legitimate as long as you can express it in a communicative and understandable manner.
7. Expand your tolerance to different ideas and cultures.
8. Understand that each one of us has an original and unique voice that should be cultivated so that we can express our own ideas, thoughts and feelings as clearly as possible.
9. Learn to differentiate between an individual way of thinking and fashions, or group's way of thinking.

**Expectations**

You are expected to show up to every class, and on time. Missing lessons and lateness will interfere with learning and hence affect your grade. Since there is a large emphasis on team-work you will be required not to disrupt your fellow student's creativity and to be considerate. No ringing cell-phones and no eating during class.

All assignment will be presented in print; hence you have to master computer skills. The writing center is there to help you with any difficulties you encounter.

**Grading**

Your contribution in class will determine 20% of your final grade
The work done in groups with other students will determine 15% of your final grade
The presentations you will give in class on your own, and/or with fellow students will determine 15% of your final grade
The written works you will be required to present throughout the semester will determine 25% of your final grade
The last assignment in lieu of final exam will determine 25% of your final grade
Required Text
"Imaginative Writing" by Janet Burroway

Schedule

Week I
Tuesday January 11 Introduction
Thursday January 13 Image and imagination

Week II
Tuesday January 18 Students' writings
Thursday January 20 Wonders

Week III
Tuesday January 25 Students' writing
Thursday January 27 The art of storytelling

Week IV
Tuesday February 1 Conjuring up your senses
Thursday February 3 The merits of being curious

Week V
Tuesday February 8 Writers' discipline
Thursday February 10 Students' writings

Week VI
Tuesday February 15 Being original
Thursday February 17 Genre and gender

Week VII
Tuesday February 22 'Why We Are Not Happy' B. Russell
Thursday February 24 Students' writings

Week VIII
Tuesday March 1 Meet the writer
Thursday March 3 Poetic license

Week IX
Tuesday March 8 Spring Recess
Thursday March 10 Spring Recess

Week X
Tuesday March 15  Students' writings
Thursday March 17  Cultivating the unexpected
Week XI
Tuesday March 22  Drama, play and screenwriting
Thursday March 24  Students' writings
Week XII
Tuesday March 29  Show, don't tell
Thursday March 31  Clichés and credibility
Week XIII
Tuesday April 5  Students' writings
Thursday April 7  Characters and settings
Week XIV
Tuesday April 12  Food for imagination
Thursday April 14  Students' writings
Week XV
Tuesday April 19  My journey so far
Thursday April 21  Inventing reality
Week XVI
Tuesday April 26  Students' writings
Thursday April 28  Conclusion

Notes
1) You can expect to dedicate 3-6 hours per week outside of class, reading and preparing assignments.
2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Offices as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
3) Do not hesitate to address me with any kind of problem you have during class or after.
4) This syllabus is subject to change.