

Creative Critical Writing Workshop

IML 585 | 2 units | SCI L105
Spring 2018
Fridays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Holly Willis

hwillis@cinema.usc.edu
213-821-5709 / 310-773-6831
Office hours: by appt.

scholarly essay +++ arts journalism +++ creative nonfiction +++ the fourth genre +++ lyric essay
+++ memoir +++ cinécriture +++ text in motion +++ ekphrasis +++ vernacular criticism +++
wild theory +++ a practice-oriented writing workshop +++ exploring the act of writing +++
with, near, and/or in relation to art +++ while questioning writing +++ reading +++ art +++
relation

One Week

writing like a dog digging a hole, a rat digging its burrow

Second Week, Maybe

the discipline of looking always at what is to be seen

Another Week

sex, collaboration, and relationally as such require us to learn to walk in the wet sand of the
questions that shift on the occasion of an impact by another, even when that impact involves
something as small as another's phrasing

A Week Again

bathe in goat's milk, rosewater and volcanic salt by candlelight, if for some reason you cannot
write a thing

Yet Another Week

For a long time, I worried there was something wrong with me as a writer, because I leaned so
heavily on the thinking and writing of others. And further, that instead of wanting to hide that
leaning, my impulse has often been to showcase it, to make this thinking-with-others, this
weaving of mine and others' words, part of the texture of my writing.

A Week of Rest

language itself is never in a state of rest

A Busy Week

For to loiter near the art object, with the intention of capture through critique, should essentially
be a procedure of *induction* rather than of *deduction*, in that we are creating or tracing a
broader, possibly more fertile environment through close looking, rather than tracking a logical
conclusion from the clues given.

Yet Another Week Again

and what does a comma do, a comma does nothing but make easy a thing that if you like it
enough is easy enough without the comma

This Week

Tone is an everyday kind of maneuver. It disrupts and communicates aggression, disgust, disrespect, and humor, among a myriad of possibilities, thereby allowing language to morph into a blanket or a gun.

That Week

The here and now is a prison house. We must strive, in the face of the here and now's totalizing rendering of reality, to think and feel a then and there.

A Week

a texture holding a text

Week of the Body

do we know what a body can do?

Another Week

Recognizing that text is intertext is one thing. Seeing that a text is a social space is another. It's a deeper way of looking at it. To say that it's a social space is to say that stuff is going on: people, things, are meeting there and interacting, rubbing off on one another, brushing against one another – and you enter into that social space, to try to be part of it.

Another Week And Another Week

quotation marks are as queer as they are quotidian

The Penultimate Week

to physically experience the profundity of critical capacity, to feel its tremors releasing peculiar logic

The Last Week

We might as well say that minor no longer designates specific literatures but the revolutionary conditions for every literature within the heart of what is called great (or established) literature.

Felix Deleuze and Gilles Guattari, *Toward a Minor Literature*

Erin Manning, *The Minor Gesture*, citing Thoreau

Lauren Berlant and Lee Edelman, *Sex, or the Unbearable*

Bhanu Kapil, "How to Write a Poem"

Maggie Nelson, "'A Sort of Leaning Against': Writing With, From and for Others"

Lyn Hejinian, "The Rejection of Closure"

Maria Fusco, "Say Who I Am/Or a Broad Private Wink"

Gertrude Stein, "On Punctuation"

Claudia Rankine, Interview with Lauren Berlant, *BOMB*

Juan Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia*

Giuliana Bruno, *Public Intimacy: Architecture and the Visual Arts*

Erin Manning, *The Minor Gesture*,

Fred Moten and Stefano Harney, *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study*

Maria Fusco, *With a Bao a Qu Reading When Attitudes Become Form*

Jennifer DeVere Brody, *Punctuation: Art, Politics and Play*

Felix Deleuze and Gilles Guattari, *Toward a Minor Literature*