

ENGL 599: THE LITERARY LANDSCAPE

Brighde Mullins

Fall 20

Every writer must accept and embrace the discipline of sitting down and putting words on paper. Solitude is essential to all writing practice, but so too are other people—readers, editors, marketers, designers, distributors. How does a manuscript of disparate pages become a book? What role do editors play? Why are some books adapted into films? What role does a translator play in bringing international attention to certain writers and making other cultures available to us through narrative? This course is an introduction to the behind the scenes elements that go into the creation of analogue objects (words on the page) as well as digital media (words that appear on blogs, e-books, and multitudes of screens of various sizes). The class will be organized according to genres and will include essays, creative nonfiction, poetry, and short stories in translation. Class sessions will feature visits by practitioners including writers, editors, publishers and translators. Students will read and discuss representative works either written, published, translated, or edited by the guests in advance of their visits. Students will be prepared to interact meaningfully with the visitors by having read extensively as well as viewing videos and films and listening to podcasts and interviews outside of class time. Finally, students will experience the writer's life by developing and committing to a daily writing practice.