



Exploring Place, Exploring Genre: Creativity and LA

Would you like to explore Los Angeles while also exploring your creative voice? In this experiential class, you'll get to know the city via your own creative expression! Home of Hollywood, world-class art museums, literary gems, and hidden cultural treasures, Los Angeles is a metropolis bursting with creative and cultural expressions to be discovered.

This hands-on course will set out to uncover literary and artistic genres that are native to LA, engage with ways the city has been depicted in literature and the arts, and explore the literary and artistic spaces and places the vivid and varied LA basin has to offer.

A region known for its film, art, music, and architecture, we'll engage with creative works old and new and learn to better appreciate them by undertaking diverse creative expressions ourselves. We'll write food reviews after exploring LA's food scene, try our hands at first-person narrative in the style of Didion, explore the urban natural through poetry, respond artistically and critically in class visits to locations within striking distance of USC yet to be explored. Expect to get out and about in the metropolis USC calls home!

Besides getting to know the way Los Angeles creates, a key piece of this class will be practicing the artistic and literary forms we uncover in our time together: throughout the semester, we'll work together to explore and understand these various creative expressions by and for Angelenos, before taking time to create responsive works in that genre together in a supportive and generative class community. This class will culminate in a collaborative showcase to commemorate the creative genres we've explored.

Please note that there will be class periods where we travel off campus to locations around Los Angeles, and there may be some weeks when we meet at an alternate or shifted time to accommodate a scheduled show or event.

Texts (subject to change)

Thom Andersen. *Los Angeles Plays Itself*.

Joan Didion. *The White Album*.

Laura Gabbert. *City of Gold*. with *Counter Intelligence: Where to Eat in the Real Los Angeles* by Jonathan Gold

Harryette Mullen. *Urban Tumbleweed: Notes from a Tanka Diary*.

Selected materials from the [ONE Archive](#).

Selected materials from [The Broad](#) collection.