

KALEIDOSCOPE PROJECT

Syllabus for Summer 2017 // Prepared by Professor Nicole Gervasio

401 Hamilton Hall on Columbia's 116th Street Campus

Thursdays, 6:30-8pm, June 1-July 27 except Wednesday, July 19 (rescheduled date)

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The Kaleidoscope Project is a collaborative arts education initiative between professors of English, creative writing, and comparative literature and New York City public high school students. Our mission is to bring New York City's diverse youth more closely into contact with their cultures, histories, identities, and rights through literature from underrepresented writers. By reading diverse books and writing as diverse people at the Kaleidoscope Project, our worlds will collide in unexpected ways. With the help of writers from around the world, we will discover surprising connections as well as important divergences in our relationships to social justice, belonging, and difference.

GOALS FOR STUDENTS

1. **Read** little-known stories, poems, and books absent from high school curriculum.
2. **Write creatively** as an act of self-reflection, self-discovery, and self-improvement.
3. **Be inspired** by our readings, our guest authors, and each other.
4. **Share** our insights and achievements with an open mind and without judgment.
5. **Cultivate** social justice as our normal-- for our words, conversations, and writings.

HOW OUR WORKSHOP RESEMBLES A COLLEGE COURSE

1. Class will be led by a highly qualified instructor on Columbia's campus.
2. **Class participation** and **readings** for homework **are required**.
3. Each session will involve various activities-- icebreakers, peer workshops, free-writing, group work-- with serious discussions about weekly readings.
4. Students will have the chance to submit their writings for feedback from their professor and publish on the class blog.

HOW OUR WORKSHOP DIFFERS FROM A COLLEGE COURSE

1. There are **no grades**; students are not required to submit writing for feedback.
2. **Written homework assignments are recommended but not required**. Each week, students will have the chance to get feedback on their drafts if they choose.
3. **College credits are not offered** for these workshops. However, the Kaleidoscope Project can be listed on college applications as a competitive and selective extracurricular program sponsored by Columbia University.

COURSE CALENDAR

This schedule indicates readings for homework, weekly themes, and special guest visitors.

Orientation | Thursday, June 1

Introductions, essentials, origin stories
Yvonne Lamore-Choate, “Untitled” (US, Mojave/Quechan Tribes)

Gender | Thursday, June 8

Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl” (Antigua)
Lysley Tenorio, “The Brothers” (Philippines)
Lee Mokobe, “Untitled” (South Africa)
Kaitlin Greenidge, *We Love You, Charlie Freeman* [excerpts] (US)
Novelist Kaitlyn Greenidge visits class.

Language | Thursday, June 15

Carol Lee Sanchez, “Tribal Chant” (U.S./Laguna)
Myung Mi Kim, “Untitled” (US/Korea)
Sandra Maria Esteves, “Not Neither” (Puerto Rico/Dominican Republic/US)

Immigration | Thursday, June 22

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Thing Around Your Neck” (Nigeria)
M. Evelina Galang, “Lectures on How You Never Lived Back Home” (US/Philippines)
Gary Shteyngart, “Dystopia” (US/Russia)
R.M. Drake, “Untitled” (US/Colombia)
Patricia Park, *Re Jane* [excerpts] (US/Korea)
Novelist Patricia Park visits class.

Religion | Thursday, June 29

Tiphonie Yanique, “The Bridge Stories” (US Virgin Islands)
Song Lin, “Paul Celán in the Seine” (China)
Yaa Gyasi, “Inscape” (US/Ghana)
Tarfia Faizullah, “En Route to Bangladesh, Another Crisis of Faith” (Bangladesh/US)

Sexual Orientation | Thursday, July 6

Joumana Haddad, “I Don’t Remember” (Lebanon)
Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* [excerpts] (US)
Junot Díaz, “How to Date a Brown Girl (Black Girl, White Girl, or Halfie)” (Dominican Republic)
Reinaldo Arenas, “As Long as the Sky Whirls” (Cuba)

Prejudice & Race | Thursday, July 13

Michelle Cliff, “A Hanged Man” (Jamaica)
Toni Morrison, “Recitatif” (US)
Julio Ramón Ribeyro, “Alienation” (Peru)
Staceyann Chin, “All Oppression is Connected” (Jamaica/China)
Storyteller Sahar Ullah visits class.

Disability | Wednesday, July 19 *DATE change

Robert Hayden, “The Tattooed Man” (US)
Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* [excerpt] (Barbados/Carriacou/US)
N.S.R. Khan, “Familiar Skin” (Scotland/Pakistan)
Meri Nana-Ama Danquah, *Willow Weep for Me* [excerpt] (US/Ghana)

Closing Day | Thursday, July 27

J.M. Servín, *For Love of the Dollar* [excerpt] (Mexico)
Fahmida Riaz, “In the Underground Train” (Pakistan)
Luisa Valenzuela, “Who, Me a Bum?” (Argentina)
Derek Walcott, “Bleecker Street, Summer” (St. Lucia)
John Mbiti, “New York Skyscrapers” (Kenya)