

KALEIDOSCOPE PROJECT

Syllabus for Summer 2016 // Prepared by Professor Nicole Gervasio

309 Hamilton Hall on Columbia's 116th Street Campus

Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm, May 25-July 26

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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. There are **no required written homework** assignments. However, students are welcome to take their notebooks home and polish writings started in class.
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 | Wednesday, May 25

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

Gender | Wednesday, June 1

Jamaica Kincaid, “Girl” (Antigua)
Lysley Tenorio, “The Brothers” (Philippines)

Language | Wednesday, June 8

Hemayel M. L. Martin, Untitled poem (Curaçao)
Carol Lee Sanchez, “Tribal Chant” (US, Laguna Tribe)
Sandra Maria Esteves, “Not Neither” (Puerto Rico/Dominican Republic/US)
Jacqueline Woodson, *Brown Girl Dreaming* [excerpts] (US)
Deborah Paredez, Poetry Selection TBD
Poet Deborah Paredez visits class.

Immigration | Wednesday, June 15

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Thing Around Your Neck” (Nigeria)
Edwidge Danticat, “Westbury Court” (Haiti)
M. Evelina Galang, “Lectures on How You Never Lived Back Home” (US/Philippines)

Religion | Wednesday, June 22

Tiphonie Yanique, “The Bridge Stories” (US Virgin Islands)
M. NourbeSe Philip, “The Catechist” and “Eucharistic Contradiction” (Trinidad & Tobago)
Tarfia Faizullah, “En Route to Bangladesh, Another Crisis of Faith” (Bangladesh/US)

Sexual Orientation | Wednesday, June 29

Ismat Chughtai, “The Quilt” (India)
Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* [excerpts] (US)
Junot Díaz, “How to Date a Brown Girl (Black Girl, White Girl, or Halfie)” (Dominican Republic)
James Baldwin, “Munich, Winter 1973 (For Y.S.)” (US)

Wednesday, July 6 - NO CLASS

Prejudice & Race | Wednesday, July 13

Michelle Cliff, “A Hanged Man” (Jamaica)
Toni Morrison, “Recitatif” (US)
Staceyann Chin, “All Oppression is Connected” (Jamaica/China)
Kaitlin Greenidge, *We Love You, Charlie Freeman* [excerpts] (US)
Novelist Kaitlyn Greenidge visits class.

Disability | Wednesday, July 20

Robert Hayden, “The Tattooed Man” (US)
Audre Lorde, Excerpt from *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (Barbados/Carriacou/US)
Rachel Adams, “Missing the Bus” and “Belated But Essential Steps to Respect”
Memoirist Rachel Adams visits class.

Closing Day | Wednesday, July 27

Patti Kim, *A Cab Called Reliable* [excerpt] (South Korea)
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)

