

GAIL SCOTT'S CREATIVE WRITING SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP

“HOW TO WRITE IN THE SECOND DECADE: AN INTER-GENRE SEMINAR”

ANG 6896 Creative Writing Seminar, Winter 2012

Fridays, 1-4pm:

Concordia and McGill M.A. Students Welcome To Apply

In this seminar, consideration of contemporary theories and approaches to writing will frame an ongoing Creative Writing practice oriented towards expressing post-millennial urban and “post-urban” space. *If you wish to apply please send me a writing sample of about four pages (gail.scott@umontreal.ca).*

In the first half of each seminar we will consider recent approaches to notions of the “writing subject” (or narrator), the “new” sentence (or poetic line), narration (or storytelling), in the contemporary urban/“post-urban” context. We will consider how to gather the present moment into writing against a background of evolving (post)-urban space, increasingly defined by a “cacophony” of multiple languages, by issues of diversity and empathy, and by growing social resistance, via new media, to degrading social conditions. The class will focus on the evolution and overlapping of traditional written genres in this context, and examine various formal and stylistic approaches to expressing/projecting our contemporaneity.

The workshop half of the seminar will ask the question: what approach does each student find best expresses her own moment in time and place? The question of expressing particularities of everyday experience with a sharp awareness of context will be fostered through discussion and writing games. In addition to writing exercises and group-critique of student work, each student will prepare a 15-page writing portfolio during the workshop, worth 60 per cent of the final mark. Students interested in working in the areas of fiction, poetry, cross-genre, and performance writing will be accommodated.

The reading list will include samples from both creative and theory texts, most probably: Walter Benjamin, Deleuze/Guattari, Robert Smithson, Rob Fitterman/Kenneth Goldsmith

(a New York conceptual poet recently invited by Michelle Obama to perform at the White House), Michaël Delisle, Guy Maddin, Louise Halfe, Samuel Delany, Rachel Zolf, Eileen Myles, Juliana Spahr, Renee Gladman, André Breton, Raymond Chandler. The class will be capped at 12.