

Course Adoption Initiative

Jilly Reck

Areas of Study: Women and Genders Studies & Creative Writing (literature class)

Classes: Women in literature, (contemporary) women writers, upper-level poetry, non-traditional poetry, new and innovative poetry

Level: Upper-level undergraduate and graduate classes

Lesson Plan:

- Lesson Objectives: From readings and writings students will be able to better understand how history and other outside sources can serve as inspiration for their own poems.
- Before Class: All students are expected to have read all of *City Scattered* and bring a copy with them to class.
- Homework: every week students must bring in five pages of writing in a notebook (can be about anything they want, but should help them come up with new ideas for poems)
- Zoom in Tyler Mills to talk about her writing process and how she came up with this idea to weave the life of a women living in 1930's Berlins, with the life of a modern women.
- Show other poems from other authors like Chloe Honum who also play with poetry from.

Writing Prompts:

1. Poetry is seen as another art form, like painting or drawing. How does taking creative risks with the form of her poetry does Tyler Mills treat her page like a canvas? (this would be more of an short essay response then a creative one)
2. Mill's poetry is often written with a combination of personal narrator and an outside observer. Try to write a poem that showcases both voices, having them work together to tell a cohesive story.
3. Mill's poetry is not written in a typical style. It is more lyrical and the lines flow on the page. Try playing around with how your poems are oriented and see if you can come up with a new and creative way of writing your poems. (take artistic risks)
4. One style of poetry that can help you create your own poetry style is called *Found Poetry/Borrowed Language*; this is where a poet uses lines from other poems to create their own poetry. Using Poetry.org and Poetry Foundation find lines from other poems and create your own unique poem. Make sure you credit where each line comes from.
5. Mills used the history of women in Berlin in the 1930's to write many of her poems in *City Scattered*. Write your own poem from the perspective of a person from a specific time in history of your choosing.

Critical Writing Assignment

- Write a 1000 – 1500-page essay using Times New Roman pt.12 font double spaced. Choose from one of the options below.
- Essay prompts:

- 1. Analyze how form affects how the reader experiences the poems. If the poem were in another form, how would this decision effect the reader?
- 2. Poetry is a male dominated industry. By playing with form and style, how is Tyler Mills carving out a piece for herself? (or Poetry is a male dominated industry, how does playing with form and style allow you to carve out a piece for yourself?)
- Writing steps for the essay:
 - First pick the topic you feel you can write more about
 - Come up with a strong Thesis
 - Then each paragraph should be proving your thesis

Creative Writing Project

- Write your own chapbook using what you have learned from this class. Play with style and form, take ideas from history, and incorporate that into your own book.
- Students must write 15-20 poems can be in any font that fits your aesthetic, create your own cover page and be creative.
- Print it out and bring the final version to class, read one poem aloud to the class and give a 5-minute presentation on the themes of your chap book. Discuss how you played with style and form and created your own unique ways of writing poems.
- Steps to help the students come up with ideas:
 - Come up with an overall theme for your chap book
 - Gather free writes/ Look in your journal for ideas
 - Revise poems written for class