

## **SENIOR CAPSTONE FOR WRITING**

**Capstone Coordinator for Writing is Prof. Elizabeth Kendall: [KenaliE@newschool.edu](mailto:KenaliE@newschool.edu)**

The Senior Capstone is completed during a student's final semester. During the Senior Capstone experience, students will further hone their writing and literary skills by working on a culminating writing project in a rigorous environment.

### **Three Options:**

Students must fulfill one of the following three options for the Senior Capstone in their primary genre: Fiction, Poetry, Journalism, or Non-Fiction only. (Playwriting is a Senior Capstone option only through The Arts Program).

#### **1. Senior Seminar (4 credits)**

The Senior Seminar is designed for students who excel in a collaborative small-group environment where they work together with other writers in a shared genre. In the Senior Seminar, students critique, complete, shape, and revise a portfolio of work in their primary genre culled from their previous writing courses. This seminar is community-based, as the class collaboratively selects critical and creative readings that relate specifically to its members' writing projects. In engagement with these readings, as well as student writing projects, the class examines issues of craft, form, content, and process. In addition to developing a final revised portfolio (20-30 pages for poetry, 30-40 pages for fiction, 25-35 pages for journalism/nonfiction), each student will submit a critical essay contextualizing her/his body of work.

- Students must earn a B+ or higher in the Advanced Workshop in order to take the Senior Seminar, for which they may register online as they would for any other class. Students who do not earn the minimum grade of B+ in their Advanced Workshop before beginning the Senior Seminar must meet with the Undergraduate Director of Literary Studies – Val Vinokur ([VinokurV@newschool.edu](mailto:VinokurV@newschool.edu)), room B253, 65 W11th St. – to determine their options. (We recommend that students who are unable to meet the grade minimums in their Writing workshops consider changing majors or switching to Literature).

#### **2. Writing for Publication (4 credits)**

Writing for Publication is designed for students who are interested in gaining firsthand experience with the possibilities and challenges of working as a professional writer. In Writing for Publication, students work on a single long piece of writing under the tutelage of a professional writer/editor, acting as a mentor. From original proposal to first and final drafts, the focus is on the collaborative editorial process, and on offering a "real world" experience of writing in a professional context.

- Students must apply for Writing for Publication in the middle of the second month of the semester preceding their graduating semester (October 10 or March 10). Students must submit the following in duplicate to Leah Weich, senior work advisor, who will pass it to Prof. Elizabeth Kendall, the Capstone Coordinator for Writing:

- Two letters of recommendation from former Writing instructors.
- A writing sample of 5-10 pages in the student's primary genre

The application will be reviewed by the Capstone Coordinator and the instructor of Writing for Publication.

### **3. Senior Thesis (4 credits)**

The Senior Thesis is for students desiring to execute a clearly articulated creative writing project one-on-one with a full-time writing professor in their primary genre. Students are expected to participate in rigorous research, writing and revision throughout their Senior Thesis and produce a final portfolio of creative work (30-40 pages for poetry, 40-50 pages for fiction, 35-45 for journalism/non-fiction), and produce a critical essay contextualizing her/his body of work. At the end of the semester students will present their work in a public reading at the College. Students must apply for a Senior Thesis in the middle of the second month of the semester preceding their graduating semester (October 10 or March 10).

Students must submit the following in duplicate to Leah Weich, senior work advisor, who will pass it to Prof. Elizabeth Kendall, the Capstone Coordinator for Writing:

- A transcript that shows a minimum A- in their Advanced Writing Workshop (or in Intermediate, if grade in Advanced is not available) and a minimum B+ overall GPA.
- Two letters of recommendation from former Writing instructors.
- A written statement of purpose describing the intent of the proposed project, listing works that have influenced the conception of the project and detailing the reasons why the student is applying to work with a particular faculty member.
- A writing sample of 5-10 pages in the primary genre.
- Two ranked choices for Faculty Thesis Advisor. Consult the list of Full-Time Writing Faculty and Writers-in-Residence below.
- Students applying for Senior Thesis will be interviewed orally by a Faculty Committee.

**CAPSTONE COORDINATOR FOR WRITING: Prof. ELIZABETH KENDALL**  
[ekendall@rcn.com](mailto:ekendall@rcn.com) and [kenalie@newschool.edu](mailto:kenalie@newschool.edu)

### **Full-Time Writing Faculty, Writers-in-Residence, and their Areas of Expertise\***

Margo Jefferson – Non-fiction and Fiction (spring 2010 Senior Seminar)

Robin Mookerjee – Poetry and Fiction (on leave spring 2010)

Rob Buchanan – Journalism

Elizabeth Kendall – Non-fiction and Journalism (fall 2009 Senior Seminar)

Mark Statman - Poetry

Jennifer Firestone – Poetry

Albert Mobilio – Fiction (spring 2010 Senior Seminar)

Wendy Walters – Poetry and Non-fiction (spring 2010 Senior Seminar)

Mark Greif – Journalism and Non-fiction

Marco Roth – Journalism and Non-fiction

Colette Brooks – Non-fiction

Andrew Meier - Journalism

Neil Gordon – Fiction and Non-fiction (Dean of the College 2008-2010)

Siddhartha Deb – Fiction and Non-fiction

Jennifer Baumgardner – Non-fiction

\*This list is tentative and may not account for new hiring and faculty going on sabbatical leave. Senior Seminar instructors will generally not be available to advise Senior Theses.