THE GENERATIVE PROJECT
Course description and Objectives

This course will introduce students to the idea of writing as a long-term process. We will look at poems by a wide range of poets who engage in self-generating projects and we will look at this phenomenon as a way to approach our own writing. There will be daily readings that examine different methods of generating writing, including poems by Mary Ruefle, CAConrad, Matthew Zapruder, Harryette Mullen and many others. The class will consist of in-class and take-home writing exercises based on the readings for the week, and discussion thereof. By the end of the course, students will have developed their own extended, generative project to carry them into the Unknown.

Requirements
You will only receive one grade for the program, and my half of it will be based on:

- In-class participation, including attendance. This is 75% of your grade. This means being an active participant in our discussions and doing the writing exercises.
- Each of you should come to class ready to discuss the reading for that week. You’ll hand in 3-5 critical discussion questions about the reading, along with your answers to them. As a guideline, use the general topic for each class to guide your questions. Be analytical, look closely at structure, methods, techniques, etc. This is your opportunity to show me you’ve read and thought about the poems & essays while focusing on what interests you most in them. (You’ll turn these short essays in by uploading them to “forums” on Brightspace.)
- Required Textbooks: (we’ll read them in this order, so you can plan your book orders accordingly; check schedule on next page for specific dates)

  - Jon Woodward, Rain, Wave
  - Machi Tawara, Salad Anniversary
  - Harryette Mullen, Urban Tumbleweed
  - Ted Berrigan, The Sonnets, Penguin
  - Simone Muench, Wolf Centos, Sarabande Books
  - Jen Bervin, Nets, Ugly Duckling Presse
  - Mary Ruefle, A Little White Shadow, Wave
  - Tom Philips, A Humument
  - Chase Berggrun, RED, Birds LLC
  - CAConrad, A Beautiful Marsupial Afternoon, Wave
  - All other readings will be on Brightspace
**Schedule – Have the following books read, and your brief essays ready to hand in, on the day indicated, below:**

*note: no essays due on day 1!*

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<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Tues June 27</td>
<td>Introduction to the Generative Project: <strong>Zapruder</strong> (Noelle poems)/<strong>Berrigan</strong> poem w/explanation; Jeff Tweedy quote; Wordsworth’s <strong>Nuns Fret Not</strong></td>
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<td>2 Thurs June 29</td>
<td><strong>Non-Traditional Forms:</strong> <strong>Woodward</strong></td>
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<td>3 Tues July 4</td>
<td><strong>False Translation:</strong> <strong>Cameron</strong> poems and afterward</td>
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| 4 Thurs July 6| **Cut-ups/Collage:** **Berrigan** essay and **THE SONNETS**; **Muench WOLF CENTOS**  
Students: have lines of poems (yours or others’) already cut up |
| 5 Tues July 11| **Dailiness:** **Joanne Kyger, Harryette Mullen, Machi Tawara**  
We will meet today because of Bastille Day. We’ll do our regular thing briefly and then something fun. |
| 6 Thurs July 13| **Erasures:** **Bervin/Ruefle/Berggrun**  
Also see under “Resources” – several web interviews |
| 7 Tues July 18| **Games:** **Yau** (vowel sonatas and title poem); **Cathy Park Hong** (2 ballads); **OULIPO** example  
Also see under “Resources” – a 3 part YouTube documentary on OULIPO |
| 8 Thurs July 20| **CAConrad** Final Class: wrap up/students present their plans for projects |