

INSTRUCTOR LETTER

WRITING THE RUPTURE

Dear Poets,

I'm so excited to begin this 8-week writing journey into poetry with you! Cherrie Moraga says maybe what I like best about writing is that it always knows better than you where you're going, if you let it. In this class, we will read and write poems that help unfold the path before us as we learn to write the ruptures we need to place onto the page, outside and separate from us as poet, as writer. During this eight-week workshop we will focus on and discuss poetry that investigates the human experience. We will learn more about that ways in which poetry can serve as seeds to create the food that nurtures and heals the flooding of our internal heartscapes. We'll use poetry to explore how the art of *remembering* can allow us to *re-member* – and put ourselves back together after rupture.

We'll learn different techniques in craft, specifically around image, voice, and form. We will navigate the contrast between content and form to find where the poem lives and thrives. We will explore line breaks, utilizing the white space of the page, point of view, tone, and pacing of the poems. We will read a combination of classical works as well as contemporary poetry allowing ourselves to be in conversation with the poems we read as we learn how they model certain techniques. We will then be able to apply those techniques to our own practice of poetry during the weekly provided prompts.

This course will allow you to work at your own pace. Each week you'll be provided suggested reading assignments and writing prompts to choose from as you craft your poem(s). I will provide a discussion space for you all to share your poems, thoughts, and to share feedback on each other's poem(s). I will also provide you personal and private feedback on your poems. I will set up times we can meet, as a group online to do group workshops and you will be able to set up a weekly one-on-one session with me if you wish to do so. Since some people may be writing about sensitive material and experiences we will need to act out of utmost respect and compassion during this class. I will provide a set of guidelines for the class and discussions.

I look forward to working with each of you!

Sincerely,
Tanaya