

CLOSE-READING COURSE · FOUR SESSIONS

Reading Whitman

Leaves of Grass and the Civil War poems

A four-session close-reading of Walt Whitman. Three sessions on 'Song of Myself,' one on the Civil War poems. Whitman is what happens when American democracy tries to speak in verse. His long lines, his catalogues, his indiscriminate embrace of everything he sees — no poet before him had done any of it.

SIX REPRESENTATIVE SESSIONS

1. Session 1 — 'Song of Myself,' Sections 1-15: the opening democracy
2. Session 2 — 'Song of Myself,' Sections 16-33: the dilating middle
3. Session 3 — 'Song of Myself,' Sections 34-52: the great close
4. Session 4 — The Civil War poems and the Lincoln elegy
5. The Whitman long line: how it works on the ear
6. The catalogue as democratic form

FORMATS · ALL CAN BE ADAPTED TO YOUR CALENDAR

- Full series:** The full set of sessions (see above)
- Workshop:** Shorter version, shaped to the venue's calendar
- Single talk:** One 60-90 minute lecture on a chosen theme
- Delivery:** In person, on Zoom, or hybrid

INSTRUCTOR · JAMES F. MULHERN

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Give Them Unquiet Dreams — Kirkus Best Book of 2019. Pushcart Prize nomination. Founder, Silver Current Press.

TO BOOK OR ASK QUESTIONS

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