

English 816: Documentary Poetics

Over the course of the semester, we will both create and analyze 20th-21st century documentary poetry. What do we mean when we call something a documentary poem? Are there defining characteristics of this form and, if so, what might they be? In addition to reading and presenting on model texts, you will draft two documentary projects. Students will conclude the semester by expanding upon, and revising, the project of their choice. Writers we may study include Muriel Rukeyser, Charles Reznikoff, Marianne Moore, C.D. Wright, Nicole Cooley, Maggie Nelson, and Tracy K. Smith. (Reading list currently undecided.)