

English 127, **Writers Roundtable**, Thursdays 1:45-4:30, Dr. S. A. Eisenstein. Office hours JH 302F 8:15-9am, M-Th, 12-1 M-Th, Thursday also 12 to 1:45. sameisenstein@hotmail.com

No experience necessary (regardless of what the catalog says)

Other things are, however, required:

1. Regular attendance, on time
2. Participation, which includes comment
3. About 1000 words every week, which may include notes, parts of poems, stories, diary entries, dreams. Type your assignment, date and number it so that you have an on-going check on your status in class.
4. Purchase of the LACC student literary journal, CITADEL.

You are invited, **urged**, to contribute to the forthcoming CITADEL, submitting your work by placing it in the box provided for the purpose outside JH300E. Student editors will select from submitted work, whether from English 127 or any other part of the college community. Inquire about editorial openings.

If you fulfill all four of the above, you receive an A in the class. If you don't, you fail. You are not graded on individual pieces. The learning outcome is learning to practice for steady output.

There are no "sacred cows" about language or subject. Conversely, there is no virtue in throwing about the formerly-forbidden or tabu words or concepts merely for the sake of exhilarating freedom.

Please note, however: writing that exhibits out-of place racial, religious, or other bias **on the part of the writer** rather than illustrating or reporting on it as part of the narrative will not be tolerated and may be considered a form of harassment. Citing the examples of Celine, Pound, Eliot or other brilliant racists doesn't make for a good argument. We are a plural people and this class will not be a springboard for the dubious "pleasure" of embarrassing fellow classmates.

I have no recommendation for books that purport to teach you how to write. Read books you enjoy and try to notice how the writer comes to the effects that affect you. The main thing is to read: everything. All that comes to hand; never be snobbish--don't sneer at "graphic novels" (sometimes called comic books), or works of "divine" origin--myths, fables, history, bibles.

Go to libraries, galleries and museums. Browse, browse, browse--not only with a smelly, pathetic, unsanitary computer mouse, but with your hands and eyes on the real thing.

From time to time a writer, film-maker, performance artist, or what-have-you will come to class to demonstrate his/her work.