

Hi everyone, I'm
Piyali and I'm a
[new faculty member
in Creative Writing](#)
here at Penn.

New Courses in Creative Writing, Fall '21



I wanted to share with you the new courses I'm teaching in Fall 2021. One of them revolves around Asian American lives. The other is a fiction workshop about friendship. Please do pass on the information to anyone you think may be interested. Prospectus on Canvas. Thanks, and looking forward to getting to know you all!

ENGL 010.301 (TR 10:15-11:45)

Intro CW: Writing Asian American Lives

Who are the Asian Americans? What does it mean to be non-Black POC in this country? How do religion, ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, and immigration status define this group? How do we discuss all this while being inclusive of both "us" and "them"? This course will explore these questions through the lens of an introductory fiction, and nonfiction creative writing workshop. We'll follow the traditional workshop format of critiquing each other's short stories, essays, and poems in class, along with close reading works by authors as established as Jhumpa Lahiri, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Amy Tan, and as contemporary as Lisa Ko, Bushra Rehman, Ocean Vuong, and Mira Jacob.

Questions?

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ENGL 112.301 (TR 1:45-3:15)

Fictional Friendships: Writing Ardor and Amity

How many kinds of love exist among friends? What are sisterhoods and what are bromances? In what ways do the ideals of femme, masc, trans, and cis complicate friendship? What is a frenemy? In what ways do we dissolve the boundaries between queer friendships? And what role does family play in making friends: that is, can one ever dilute blood? What do race and class have to do with ardor and amity? This fiction workshop will explore not only how we experience friendship, but also how we write it. We will examine novels famous for their takes on friendship (Toni Morrison's *Sula*, Elena Ferrante's *My Brilliant Friend*, Tanwi Nandini Islam's *Bright Lines*, Nicole Dennis Benn's *Patsy*, Justin Torres's *We the Animals*) and interrogate the sticky, blurry lines between friendship and love. We'll also be writing our own short stories. Join us!