Application for ENGL 463 Writing Outsiderness and Interiority, Fall 2024
Instructor: Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah
Th 1.30-3.20

Course Description: The essayist, the writer of non-fiction, has historically been an oracle of opinions that most often go unsaid. They do not traditionally reinforce a sense of insular collectivity, instead they often steer us towards a radical understanding of the moment that they write from. The best essayists unearth and organize messages from those most at the margins: the ignored, the exiled, the criminal, and the destitute. So, by writing about these people, the essayist is fated, most nobly or just as ignobly, to write about the ills and aftermaths of their nation’s worse actions. It is an obligation and also a very heavy burden. In this class we examine how the essay and many essayists have functioned as geographers of spaces that have long been forgotten. And we read a series of non-fiction pieces that trouble the question of interiority, belonging, the other, and outsiderness. And we attempt to do a brief but comprehensive review of the essay as it functions as a barometer of the author’s times. This is accomplished by reading the work of such writers as: Herodotus, William Hazlitt, Doris Lessing, Audre Lorde, Gay Talese, Binyavanga Wainaina, Jennifer Clement, V.S. Naipaul, Sei Shonagon, George Orwell, Margo Jefferson, Tobi Haslett, and Joan Didion.

Counts as an advanced-level nonfiction course in the Creative Writing Concentration.

Instructions

Please fill out this application as a *single document,* including writing sample, and upload it as a PDF file (no Pages or Preview files, please) using the link below. **The title of the document should be “ENGL463\_Your last name, Your first name.”** Optional: add the filename to the header of this document.

[Use this link to upload your completed application](https://forms.office.com/r/dBU9qYaKxD): https://forms.office.com/r/dBU9qYaKxD. Log in using your Yale email address and password, if prompted. If you are logged into a non-Yale email account in your browser, the page will not load.

Please complete and submit this application by noon on **April 5**. Applicants will be notified of decisions by **April 12**. When registration period begins, admitted students must add the course to their Registration Worksheet and request Instructor Permission in Yale Course Search ([YCS](https://courses.yale.edu/)). Instructors will approve admitted student requests in YCS; approved students must then return to YCS to Confirm Changes and complete enrollment in the course. Admitted students who do not complete enrollment in the course by **May 1** may have their places filled from the waiting list.

## Part I : Introduction

1. What is your name?

2. What is your class year?

3. If you’ve declared, what is your major?

4. What creative writing courses have you taken at Yale (if any)? Please include the names of your instructors:

5. Paste a brief statement below describing why you'd like to take this course.