

Introduction to Creative Writing @ SCI-Somerset (engwrt 400)
Special Focus: The Writer's Process
Spring 2027
Fridays 1-3:30p.m. + transit



Sharif Bey, Marzette (2026)

On writing by hand, the poet Ross Gay says, “the pen, the hand behind the pen, is a digressive beast. It craves, in my experience anyway, the wending thought, and crafts/imagines/conjures a syntax to contain it.” Words to hold. In this class, students will explore poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction with a focus on process: arriving at memories, images, and stories *by way of* writing. Working autobiographically and imaginatively, students will try their hand at memoir, flash fiction, poems on family, grief, joy, love.

This section of Introduction to Creative Writing meets at SCI-Somerset medium security prison once a week so that Pitt students and incarcerated students can learn together as part of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. Inside-Out courses facilitate dialogue and education across profound social differences, bringing traditional college students and incarcerated students together in jails and prisons for learning. Class meetings will be held at the prison, which is 1.5 hours away from Pitt; you will need to block out Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. Transportation will be provided. Have questions or want permission to register? Contact Prof. JC Lee @ starla@pitt.edu