

Writing by the Bay

## SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: THE WRITER: Region & Roots (Acclimation)

Sunday: Mini Tour; Classroom Icebreaker: Names & Found Objects

### Monday: Our Physical Environment

AM: Introductions:

Class Objectives/ Class Rules (Mindfulness Hand-Out); Expectations  
Writing/Responding to Music/Sound (Writing Warm-Ups)  
-- Elephant Time! / "Be An Animal"

PM: Bookstore Visit; Start daily journal over-looking Bay (Five Words)

SH: Guided Readings: Sandra Cisneros Interview & Excerpts from The House on Mango Street (Reading ahead: Shawn Wong, Homebase, pp. 1-15)

### Tuesday: Writing About Home

AM: Discussion of Cisneros: Home vs. House; Sources of Inspiration; Importance of Names & Colors; Peer Interviews/Portraits & Self-Portraits

PM: Portraits cont.: Reading: Goldberg. "Writing is Not a McDonald's Hamburger"; "The Power of Detail"

SH: Guided Readings: Margolin, "The Seed Meadow" & "Land and Animals; Stegner, "Santa Cruz" (Read ahead: Wong, pp. 16-30)

### Wednesday

AM: Visit to Arboretum: write observations; Find an object in the physical environment that reflects you

PM: Sharing of Portraits/Self-Portrait (Hand-in); Hughes, "My Page for English B";

SH: Reading: Alexie, "Every little Hurricane" & "Because My Father Always Said He Was the Only Indian Who Saw Jimi Hendrix Play 'The Star-Spangled Banner' at Woodstock"; Homebase pp. 30-45)

### Thursday

AM: Half-Day in Cowell Park; journal writing related to Homebase

PM: \*\*Essay #1 assigned\*\*

Some words on Native heritage; Music & Alexie; compare Stegner/Alexie/Margolin (voice/tone/relationship to environment/genre); Homebase pp. 46-70

SH: Begin Essays -- brainstorming, freewrites, thesis statement  
Write letter home based on writings from this week  
Continue reading Homebase pp. 71-80

Writing by the Bay Syllabus cont.

Friday

AM: Read Goldberg, "Baking a Cake"; Peer editing of Opening Paragraphs to Essay 1  
Work on Essays; Visit to "Casa Latina"

PM: Complete Homebase; work on essays  
Reading Ahead: from San Francisco Stories: Introduction; Kipling, "He Visits  
the Bohemian Club" pp. 134-138; Milosz; Thomas; Stevenson; Trollope

\*\* Begin reading Cannery Row \*\*

Sunday

SH: Revisions of Essays (Readings: see above; Steinbeck, Cannery Row)

WEEK 2: GENERATIONS -- CREATING COMMUNITY

Monday

AM: History of Chinese Presence in US; Discussion of Wong's Themes -- Home,  
Migration, Identity; Write responses to "Heritage is a Lonely Place"/Share

PM: Link Wong to San Francisco Readings  
Postcards & Tourism, Writing Exercise

SH: Readings: San Francisco Stories: Amy Tan; Thompson, p. 100 only; Kerouac, pp.  
155-157; Toklas, p. 83 only; Twain, "The Fashions, pp. 289-290; Steinbeck,  
pp. 1-70

Tuesday

AM: Discussion of Amy Tan story; Excerpt from the The Joy Luck Club  
Excerpt from Banana Yoshimoto's Kitchen (Read & Discuss); "kitchen" writing  
Discussion of Themes; How to Critique

PM: Postcard Collages (based on Words from Day 1); Ruth Forman, "We Are the Young  
Magicians"

SH: Discussion of stories from SFS; compare Intros. and Conclusions; Reading from  
Cannery Row pp. 71-100

Wednesday

AM: "The Gift"; SFS cont.; Discuss opening of Steinbeck; "Found Poems" Workshop

PM: Discuss Steinbeck's style; Read Cannery Row, pp. 100-130

SH: Poetry, Li-Young Lee, "Mnemonic" & Ruth Forman, "We Are the Young Magicians"

\*\* Essay #2 outlined \*\*

Writing by the Bay Syllabus cont.

Thursday

All-Day Field Trip to Monterey (Hand-Outs for Trip)

SH: Friendship Bracelets; Discussion of Monterey experience

Friday

AM: Discussion of relationship between writing & audience; tourism  
Outline for Essay #2

PM: Work on Essays; first 1/2 hour of Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath

Sunday

SH: Work on Essays; GOW cont.

WEEK 3: THE HEART OF HOME: THE CREATIVE JOURNEY

Monday

AM: Complete Essays; end GOW; writing responses to Steinbeck film and novel;  
Group Work on Cannery Row

PM: Kinhin Hike; Thich Nhat Hanh, "Mindfulness"; Read Goldberg on Haikus;  
Pound, "In A Station At the Metro"; Write Haikus

SH: Poetry Packet; workshop short pieces

Tuesday

AM: Discussion of Poetry +

PM: Photography/Poem Workshop

SH: Reading: Rodriguez; Work on Creative Assignment

Wednesday

Day-Long Excursion to San Juan Batista & Natural Bridges

SH: Discussion of Missions; work on Final Projects; Writing on Bay: Compassion Ex.

Thursday

AM: Complete Creative Assignment; Film: Smoke Signals

LUNCH & PM: Café Reading at Cowell Coffee Shop

Friday: Wrapping Things Up. . .