

WRITING THE FRAME: REFLEXIVE NARRATION

The Evergreen State College Literary Arts Capstone | Spring 2026

PROFESSOR MELLIS IS ATTENDING THE AWP CONFERENCE TODAY (ASSOCIATION FOR WRITERS & WRITING PROGRAMS). PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL HER TO DISCUSS THE CAPSTONE AND VISIT STEVEN HENDRICKS' ACADEMIC FAIR TABLE.

This advanced capstone writing workshop and literature seminar delves into fiction that turns the lens back on itself, exploring how stories can narrate not just events but the act of telling. How do authors make authorship visible, performing rich, absorbing storytelling while rendering the storyteller transparently present? We'll encounter fractal forms, comedically recursive structures, and experiments in communal self-reflection and embedded commentary. We'll examine representations of doubling, mirroring, and subtle, affective loops in narrative forms. Theoretical ideas from selected analytical texts will further our study of the self-questioning psyche in narrative play. Reflexivity will also be explored across media, through the narrative mise-en-abyme, self-referentiality, and process-oriented approaches of selected works of cinema, television, and art. Generative, inventive writing exercises and creative experiments will support students in enacting these strategies, translating theory into playful, self-aware practice and creating work that is, in itself, a kind of narrative frame. As a Literary Arts Capstone in the Literary Arts path of study, the program schedule fluctuates to give students ample time for writing. After an initial period of generative writing exercises done together in community, the program structure shifts to a residency, during which period students have time to work intensively on writing, reading,

and research individually and in student groups, meeting one-on-one with faculty. This is followed by a return to all program class meetings for intensive workshops, feedback, and revision, culminating in a celebratory reading of capstone projects.

Faculty:

Miranda Mellis
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Anticipated Credit Equivalencies:

8 - Creative Writing
8 - Literature

Schedule and Class Location:

Our capstone alternates between immersive in-class writing intensives, workshops, lectures, seminars, and independent practice. Our first day of class is Friday, April 3, 12-5PM, in the newly renovated SEM 1 3203. Our schedule varies for the first four weeks of the quarter to allow students to write and revise autonomously, before small group workshops. The second half of the quarter we begin intensive workshoping.

Required Books:

No One is Talking About This, Patricia Lockwood
The Literary Conference, Cesar Aira
The Baudelaire Fractal, Lisa Robertson
Search History, Eugene Lim