

The background is a textured painting. On the left, a full moon is depicted in a dark blue circle against a lighter blue background. The rest of the scene is rendered in warm, earthy tones of brown, tan, and beige, with visible brushstrokes. A person is shown from the side, sitting at a desk and writing. The overall mood is contemplative and artistic.

Writing Widely

CHID 250B

This is a reading and writing course. More specifically, this is a course in which we will focus on writing for a wide audience about very complicated social issues. In the past century, writing about many of these issues was usually reserved for the specialist: scholars, political pundits or commentators, social scientists. But in the age of the Internet, everyone is entitled to weigh in. We will read and discuss a host of contemporary writers who are writing essays devoted to discussion of some of the most pressing of social issues, as well as remembering two important writers—James Baldwin and Joan Didion—who paved the way for these later voices. Your voice has every right to join this chorus. My hope, in fact, is that you will leave this course seeing yourself as part of the wider discussion, or at the very least with a greater awareness of the need to cultivate a habit of critical, written expression about the challenges your generation faces.

SLN 10769 | Dr. Caroline Simpson | Summer-A 2017 | I&S | VLPA | M-Th 2:20-4:30