WS 310-4:  *The Hero/ine is a Scribe*: Writing the Poetry of a Feminist Life

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The comparative mythologist, Joseph Campbell, said that many who receive the Hero’s call to journey toward creative fulfillment, say no, only to spend the rest of their lives in a vague restlessness and un-ease. This is a creative writing course in which we will explore, through poetry, some of the ways to our own creative voice, our own creative life.

Through writing exercises, lecture, discussion and regular readings, students will be introduced to a wide range of poets, writing styles and techniques. Student will keep a weekly journal of readings and will present a memorized poem in class as well as give a presentation on a book of poetry or a poetry reading. There will be an in-class quiz on poetics.

There will be in-class audio recordings of poets and, if possible, a live reading by a visiting poet; however, the central focus of the course will be on the writing, editing and revision of students’ original work, written for the class.

**Required texts:**
1. Mary Oliver. *A Poetry Handbook*

**Assignments & Grading:**
- Final poetry portfolio: 40%
- Weekly poems: 24%
- Memorized poem, in-class quiz, oral presentation (7% each): 21%
- Attendance and participation: 15%
- Readings journal: Pass/Fail

**Prerequisites:** 60 credit hours.

*Now the long-desired visit is over. The heroine is a scribe. Returned to solitude, eagerly she re-enters the third room*

--Denise Levertov

“She and the Muse”

**THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.**