# Poetry of Place – Lyceum Workshop

## Course & Contact Information

**Course Date:** July 20, 2024

**Course Meeting Time:** 10am – 12pm

**Instructor:** Hannah Smith

## Course Description

*A poem is a gesture toward home.*

-Jericho Brown

As Brown suggests in his poem “Duplex,” the act of writing poetry can allow us to reach towards a sense of self & belonging. In this course, we will consider the relationship between *place* and *home.* We’ll look towards the material world around us, the people in our lives, our communities, nature, and systems of obstruction & oppression as avenues through which to interpret the concept of “home.” We will discuss a selection of poems interpreting “home” in different ways, and the course will end with a generative writing exercise.

## Course Takeaways

* Students will gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between home & place
* Students will discuss different ways to interpret the concept of “home” in poetry; together, we will consider how place informs a sense of self & belonging
* Students will leave class with a poem draft grounded in their own interpretations of home

## Course Materials

The instructor will provide a selection of 3-5 poems grappling with the concept of home. Students will receive hard copies of each poem. Individual poems might include the following (which are subject to change):

* “Those Winter Sundays” - Robert Hayden
* “What the Living Do” - Marie Howe
* “Eviction” - Eavan Boland
* “Point of Rocks, Texas” - Naomi Shihab Nye

The instructor will lead students in a generative writing exercise during the second half of the class.

## Instructor Bio

Hannah Smith’s hometown is right here: Dallas, Texas. She is a National Poetry Series Finalist and a Jake Adam York Semifinalist, and her poetry has appeared in *Best New Poets, Gulf Coast, Southeast Review, Ninth Letter, Image Journal*, and elsewhere. She received an MFA in Poetry from The Ohio State University and a BA in History from Stanford University. Hannah’s collaborative chapbooks, *Metal House of Cards* (Finishing Line Press), and *Astral Gaze* (Dancing Girl Press) are forthcoming in fall 2024 and 2025 respectively.