

Mountain Writers Series



The Empathic Imagination: Walt Whitman and Pablo Neruda A Reading as a Writer Course by John Brehm

Tuesdays, September 11 – October 16, 2012
7:00 – 9:00 PM (Six sessions)

Multnomah Friends Meetinghouse
4312 SE Stark Street, Portland OR

—Few poets have as much to teach us as Walt Whitman and Pablo Neruda. And not just about poetry but about life itself. In this Reading as a Writer course, we'll focus on the power of their poems to both express and arouse empathy and compassion. Can we cultivate such warmth and open-heartedness in our own writing? This course offers participants an opportunity to explore that question through reading and discussing representative poems as well as relevant passages from Whitman's journals and Neruda's *Memoirs*. Our texts will be *The Portable Walt Whitman* (invaluable for the biographical material it contains in addition to the poetry) and *Selected Odes of Pablo Neruda*, translated by Margaret Sayers Peden. Though our main focus will be on discussing Whitman and Neruda's poems, participants will be asked to write at least one poem in response to our readings. Our final class will be devoted to student poems.

- Meets: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Sept. 11 – Oct. 16, 2012
- Cost: \$220 (6 sessions)
- Location: [Multnomah Friends Meeting House](#) (map), 4312 SE Stark, Portland
- Enrollment: Minimum 6, maximum 12 participants

Register securely online through Paypal at www.mountainwriters.org or send check payable Mountain Writers Series to MWS at 2804 SE 27th, #2, Portland, OR 97202. See www.mountainwriters.org for details about deposits.

John Brehm is the author of two books of poetry: *Sea of Faith*, which won the 2004 Brittingham Prize, and *Help Is on the Way*, which won the 2012 Four Lakes Prize, both from the University of Wisconsin Press. Brehm has published a chapbook, *The Way Water Moves*, from Flume Press (2002) and was the associate editor for *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* (2006). His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Boulevard*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Missouri Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *The Best American Poetry 1999*. He has taught at Cornell, Emerson College, and Portland State University and received fellowships from Oregon Literary Arts and Yaddo. From 1996–2008 he lived in Brooklyn, working as a freelance writer and as a senior copywriter at Oxford University Press. He currently lives in Portland.



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