

NEW YORK STORIES III

Coordinator: Barbara Salant

This study group is the third in a series based on Phillip Lopate's anthology, *Writing New York*. We read only new material; that is, material not covered previously. Readings include short stories, essays, memoirs, diaries, and autobiographies which capture the heart and soul of New York. Familiar and unfamiliar authors are included, e.g. Frances Trollope, William Dean Howells, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Alfred Kazin, Jane Jacobs, Don DeLillo. In addition, we study short contemporary essays (2000 to 2014) in a new book, *Never Can Say Goodbye: Writers On Their Unshakable Love for New York*. Overall, we relate to authors of 1804 as well as those of 2014, exploring their stories, ideas and incidents, their triumphs and tragedies. Enrollment in previous study groups is not required.

Readings:

Writing New York: A Literary Anthology, Phillip Lopate, ed.; Penguin Putnam Inc. and the Library of America, 2008, ISBN 978-1-59853-021-6, \$24.95.

Never Can Say Goodbye: Writers On Their Unshakable Love for New York, Sari Botton, ed.; Simon and Schuster Touchstone, 2014, ISBN 978-1-4767-8440-3, \$16.00.

Barbara Salant has coordinated seven study groups in literature, art, and drama; most recently HUAC: Playwrights and Filmmakers Under Pressure and New York Stories II.

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Weeks 1 to 9: From *Writing New York; A Literary Anthology*

Week One: *Old New York*

James Kirke Paulding "The Stranger At Home; or A Tour In Broadway" 8-15

Frances Trollope "Domestic Manners of the Americans" 16-19

Nathaniel Parker Willis "Open Air Musings In The City" 74-90

Week Two: *Old New York – Walking Tours*

Ernest de Hauranne "Eight Months In America" 250-254

James Huneker "The Lungs" 396-406

Stephen Graham "Exterior Streets" 487-496

Christopher Morley "West End Ave." 564-568

Week Three: Realism

William Dean Howells "A Hazard of New Fortunes" selection 278-293
Fanny Fern "Tyrants of the Shop" 255-256
Mark Twain "Personals" 257-259
Stephen Crane "Opium's Varied Dreams" 308-313;
"Adventures Of A Novelist" 313-319

Week Four: Autobiography – Part One

F. Scott Fitzgerald "My Lost City" 569-578
John McNulty "Atheist Hit By Truck" 642-643;
"The Television Helps, But Not Very Much" 644-647
Alfred Kazin "A Walker In The City" 731-737

Week Five: Autobiography – Part Two

Joseph Mitchell "Up In The Old Hotel" 738-762
Ned Rorem "New York Diary" 808-810
Anzia Yezierska "Red Ribbon On A White Horse" 703-737

Week Six: Memoir

John Cheever "Moving Out" 802-807
Jane Jacobs "Death and Life of Great American Cities" selection 811-815
Joan Didion "Goodbye To All That" 886-895

Week Seven: Fiction

Thomas Wolfe "Only The Dead **Know** Brooklyn" 598-603
Irwin Shaw "Welcome To The City" 648-660
Mario Puzo "The Fortunate Pilgrim" selection 862-879

Week Eight: The Immigrant Experience

Edward Rivera "Final Installments" 958-971
Oscar Hijuelos "Mambo Kings Play Songs Of Love" selection 1004-1013
Bernard Vega "Memoirs" 757-784

Week Nine: Post 9/11

Colson Whitehead "The Colossus Of New York" 1024-1029
Vijay Seshadri "North Of Manhattan" 1030-1032
Don DeLillo "Falling Man" 1033-1035

Weeks 10-12 will be devoted to short selections from *Never Can Say Goodbye*

Week Ten:

Rosanne Cash "New York In The Mirror" 1-14
Phillip Lopate "To Live and Die in New York" 31-37
Anna Holmes "The Goodbye Girl" 39-46
Whoopi Goldberg "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in New York City" 63-66
Elizabeth Gilbert "The Muse of the Coyote Ugly Saloon" 77-93

Week Eleven:

Jenna Wortham "City of Tongues" 95-102
Julie Klam "Manhattan" 109-114
Susan Orlean "Royalty" 115-118
Adam Sternbergh "Me Love Brooklyn" 119-124
Sari Botton "New York Cool" 125-138

Week Twelve:

Brian Macaluso "The Shvitz at the End of the World" 139-142
Kathleen Hale "Quit Everything" 143-152
Amy Sohn "The Studied Knowledgeability of the Native New Yorker" 181-189
Porochista Khakpour "Conversions: Coming of Identity in Late-Nineties New York" 195-204
Adelle Waldman "Brooklyn and Me" 205-216

Optional Week Thirteen:

Conclusions; summary; wrap-up