ABOUT THE LITERARY ATLAS

WOC190 ~ Creative Nonfiction: People and Places ~ Instructor: Austin Woerner

Meridian: A Literary Atlas of DKU *will be (hopefully) a yearly anthology of nonfiction essays by DKU students, each of which should give readers a vivid glimpse of a particular place that is significant or interesting to that student. As a whole, it will (hopefully) become a resource for all members of the DKU community who wish to better understand the place we live now, Kunshan, and the diverse places and cultures from which DKU students hail.*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Am I required to contribute a piece to the literary atlas?

No, it's optional. The literary atlas will collect work produced by students in this class, but it is not, strictly speaking, *part* of this class. If you do not want your work included in the book, that's fine with me. No pressure.

Can students who are not enrolled in the class contribute?

Yes! If have friends who you think would like to contribute an essay, please encourage them to contact me! (People auditing this class are more than welcome to contribute as well). Ideally, we will have some geographic diversity, so I'll give priority to contributions that will enable us to have a larger and more interesting geographical spread.

If I want to have my piece published in the atlas, is it a guaranteed thing?

I can't guarantee a spot for *every* student in the atlas, but I'd like to publish as much work as I can by students who want their work featured and are dedicated to the project.

In general, if I give a piece of writing a ✓+ or "P" (publishable), it means I could envision that piece being published in the atlas. However, revisions, major or minor, might still be necessary. These might include:

- Working with me or a volunteer student editor to further improve the piece
- Polishing the language
- Contributing other things that might be necessary, such as photographs

Since the literary atlas is not, strictly speaking, part of this class, this work might have to be done after the class is over. So having your work featured in the book might require your being willing to put in a bit of extra time outside of your normal classwork.

What is the timeline for the production of the book?

I will be putting together Issue 2 of *Meridian* with my Editing and Publishing class Session 2 of this semester, so any pieces from this class contributing to *Meridian* will likely appear in print in early 2022.

Is this a "real" book – like will it be available on Amazon and stuff?

No. It will not be a real book in the sense that it won't have an ISBN number and is not formally printed by a publisher.

However, it will be a real book in the sense that it will be sold on campus (at cost) and there will be a large number of potential readers around us—English-speaking students, faculty, staff, parents of students, etc.—who will be genuinely interested in reading what you wrote. In other words, I very much hope that your writing will be *read* as widely as possible by people in, and connected with, the DKU and Duke communities.

Can I work as a volunteer to help produce the book?

Absolutely! I'll definitely need extra help from students to do these things:

- Edit and proofread other students' stories (correct language errors, check for errors and typos, etc.) *Note: I particularly need* ***native or near-native English speakers*** *for this job, so if that's you, your contribution will be especially valued!*
- Lay out the book using special computer software (using Adobe InDesign)
- Create cover art, and potentially other artwork (using Adobe Illustrator and/or Photoshop)
- Plan and promote a book launch event
- Otherwise advertise the book on campus, in hopes that people will read it!

If you are interested in doing any of these things, and/or you know somebody who might be, please let me know!