Course Title:
Writing and Activism: Finding Your Voice in Difficult Times
201 Rhetoric and Discourse

Course Description:
There is no doubt that we are living in extraordinary times. On any given day things are happening in our world that terrify, excite, inspire us, and deflate our hope. There is so much going on that sometimes we feel paralyzed and powerless to impact the world, or to even make sense of it to ourselves. This course will examine many first-person accounts of difficult times in history. We will model our own writing on that of great writers who used their rhetorical skills, their passion and their fears to make meaning of times of chaos for themselves and others. We will make opportunities for ourselves to find sense in our own world, one word at a time, creating artifacts that will be valuable to us, to our peers, and ultimately, to history.

Readings/Texts:
Many essays, poems, letters on LEARN including selections from:
Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*
Wain: LGBT Reimaginings of Scottish Folklore
The Good Immigrant
Frantumaglia (letters)
*Telling Tales* (a refugee reimagining of *The Canterbury Tales*)
*Between the World and Me*
*Silent Spring*
*Vindication of the Rights of Women*

Texts:

*A Room of One’s Own*
*Letter from Birmingham Jail*
*Caste*
*Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land*

Student Requirements:
Weekly reaction papers
Weekly writing assignments
Workshop responses
Oral presentation
A portfolio of three pieces chosen from: essay, letter, poem, interview/podcast, chosen from the writing over the semester and revised for a final grade.

About the Instructor:
Jona (rhymes with "Donna") is a graduate of UNM Honors and began teaching here in 2003. She has a BA in English, an MA in Liberal Arts from St. John's College, and is a candidate in the MFA program at IAIA. She has published fiction and nonfiction works in NY Magazine, The Guardian, and on Audible. She’s a huge nerd who has written seven short films and co-created the comic book series *The Wonderverse.*