



Saints & Ain'ts
G221033
Jeanine Hathaway

OCTOBER 8-14, 2022

Dear All Saints & Ain'ts,

As the Course Description indicates, we'll be writing poetry and prose focused on our own nuanced understanding of vices and virtues.

On each of the five days, we will focus on one or more of the Seven Deadly Sins. We may briefly define each, then spend more time describing events and characters in situations that involve temptation. We can create caricatures and composites, review archetypal figures (Aristocrat, Lech, Miser, et al.) and put them in action to make us laugh or shudder. Irreverence is welcome.

This isn't a moral theology course. So we can lighten up. Think of Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary* or *The Love Letters of Phyllis McGinley*, a collection of poems that include some oddball saints. Along with discussion, I'll provide handouts to prompt our work.

The point of the workshop is to write, to share your own work, to edit what's unnecessary and strengthen what is. It's a start.

What technology you use is up to you. If you prefer a computer and printer, bring them. Legible handwritten copies are just fine.

From Benjamin Errett's blog, *Get Wit Quick*: "It's been said that the devil has all the best lines...So as you lose your face, lose your name, and get fitted for a suit of flame, at least you won't be bored."

And from St. Bernard of Clairvaux: "Every word you write is a blow to smite the devil."

See you in October!

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