

## ***Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf**

2 weekly sessions: Oct 17 and 24 | 6:00–7:45 p.m.

Tuition: \$100

Led by Robin Black, author and writing instructor

### **Course Description**

*What a lark, what a plunge!* Let's take two evenings to plunge ever more into this classic, groundbreaking and inspiring — to readers and writers, both. On the first night (Oct 17) we will look at *Mrs Dalloway* in its historical context, and take a tour of some of the highlights of *Dalloway* criticism. (There will be some limited advance reading, available in PDF at least two weeks before the class.) On the second night (Oct 24), we will focus more on the craft of the book. How does Woolf create the book's undeniable velocity? How—and why— does she shift so seamlessly from one consciousness to another? How does Woolf so seamlessly weave in her own opinions and insights? What is the role of the shell-shocked Septimus Smith? And what exactly is the point of this study of the rather mundane day in the life of a privileged, somewhat snobbish Englishwoman? This course should indeed be a lark, an open conversation, a chance to share this wonderful, peculiar book.

### **About the instructor**

Robin Black's story collection, *If I loved you, I would tell you this*, was a finalist for the Frank O'Connor International Story Prize, and named a Best Book of 2010 by numerous publications, including the Irish Times and the San Francisco Chronicle. Her novel, *Life Drawing*, one of NPR's Best Books of 2014, was longlisted for the Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize, the Impac Dublin Literature Prize, and the Folio Prize. A recipient of fellowships from MacDowell Colony and The Leeway Foundation, Robin is a Contributing Editor to *Colorado Review*. Her fiction, essays and reviews have appeared in numerous publications including *One Story*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Southern Review*, *The Rumpus*, *O. Magazine*, *Conde Nast Traveler UK*, and many anthologies, including *The Best Creative Nonfiction*. Her most recent book is *Crash Course: Essays From Where Writing and Life Collide*. Robin lives with her husband in Philadelphia and teaches in the Rutgers-Camden MFA Program.