

ENGCW 271W: Introduction to Poetry Writing (Fall 2017)
Wednesdays 2:00-5:00 p.m. (Schwartz Center 142)

Instructor: Dr. Michael Marberry
Email: [INSERT EMAIL]

Office: N110 Callaway Center
Office Hours: Wed/Thurs 12:00-2:00 pm
(and by appointment)

Required Materials:

- *A Poetry Handbook* by Mary Oliver. [ISBN: 9780156724005].
- *Karankawa* by Iliana Rocha. [ISBN: 9780822963844].
- *The Night We Set the Dead Kid on Fire* by Ephraim Scott Sommers. [ISBN: 9781939678348].
- *Yearling* by Lo Kwa Mei-en. [ISBN: 9781938584107].
- One additional poetry collection to be chosen by each student and approved by teacher.
- Notebook for note-taking, brainstorming, free-writing, in-class writing exercises, etc.
- Various handouts and readings provided by the teacher for classroom discussion.
- Money/Budget for printing weekly readings and workshop poems for commenting.

Course Description & Goals:

This class is a creative-writing workshop designed to help students broaden their knowledge of and exposure to poetry, while also providing a unique opportunity for constructive feedback. For this class, students will produce original creative work (poetry) in response to readings and writing prompts, designed to challenge the writer's own conventions and habits. Moreover, students will be assigned critical projects (e.g. essays, presentations, etc.) that will further encourage an exploration of poetry today. Students will be expected to read and to write a significant amount of material for this class. Note: Students should budget for printing readings and workshop poems.

Our goals for this class: **(1)** To familiarize oneself with emblematic poets and poetry; **(2)** To further develop critical-thinking and close-reading skills in respect to established poetic tools, techniques, and themes; **(3)** To practice writing original poetry; **(4)** To respond thoughtfully, respectfully, and critically to others' writing in a workshop setting; **(5)** To cultivate a productive process for assessing and revising one's own poetry.

Course Requirements:

During this semester, you will complete several major writing assignments designed to build on each other intellectually, conceptually, and creatively. Regular in-class assignments will help you practice the skills that you learn. Readings and writing prompts will correspond with class discussions, while other projects will push you to read and think critically about writing outside of class.

Assignment:	Due Date:	Percent:
Weekly In-Class Participation	Throughout Semester	10%
Weekly Workshop Submissions	Throughout Semester (on Saturdays)	20%
Weekly Workshop Comments	Throughout Semester (on Wednesdays)	20%
Public-Reading Reflection (2x)	October 11 & November 29	10%
Book Analysis & Annotation (3x)	September 20, October 18, & November 15	15%
Poetry Book Presentation	November 29	10%
Final Revision Portfolio	Final Exam Week (See Schedule)	15%

Grade Scale:

Grade Range:			Quality Points:		
	A = 93-100	A- = 90-92		A = 4.0	A- = 3.7
B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	B+ = 3.3	B = 3.0	B- = 2.7
C+ = 77-79	C = 73-76	C- = 70-72	C+ = 2.3	C = 2.0	C- = 1.7
D+ = 67-69	D = 60-66		D+ = 1.3	D = 1.0	
	E = 0-59			E = 0.0	

Late Assignment Policy:

Work must be completed and submitted on time. Because of the importance of regular attendance, class participation, workshop consistency, and peer responsibility, **ALL** work must be submitted by the due date and in the correct format. I do **NOT** accept late work under any circumstances. I do **NOT** accept any work submitted in a format (or through a means) other than what is listed on the assignment sheet (i.e. no email submissions). If you know you must miss a day of class, plan ahead and make arrangements with me in advance to submit your projects early.

Attendance & Tardiness Policy:

Attendance is very important to the success of this class and to your development as a writer/reader. As such, you are expected to attend class regularly (on time) and to participate fully. For this course, you are allowed to accumulate **two (2)** absences for any reason -- i.e. this class does not distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. A third absence will result in your final grade being reduced by a full-letter grade (e.g. "B" to "C"). **Accumulating four (4) absences, for any reason, will result in automatic failure of the course.** Because of this absence policy, I *strongly* encourage you to save your absences for actual instances of sickness and/or emergencies.

Tardiness is disruptive to the focused class environment, prevents full participation, and impairs the assimilation of class information. Any work missed due to tardiness cannot be made-up. **Arriving more than 15 minutes late and/or leaving more than 15 minutes early will result in receiving an absence recorded for that day.** If you are habitually late to class, your participation grade will definitely suffer, so be sure to plan ahead and arrive to class promptly each day.

Class Cancellation & Late Instructor Instructions:

In the unlikely event of class cancellation, I will contact the class via email beforehand. If, for some unknown reason, I am late to class and haven't notified anyone via email about my tardiness or class cancellation, please wait 15 minutes. If I still have not shown up or emailed the class by that point, please send someone to or call the Creative Writing Office (Callaway N209, 404-727-4683) to notify them that I am missing from class unexpectedly.

The Honor Code, Academic Misconduct, & Classroom Conduct:

The Honor Code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions by collaborating on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the instructor is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.

Academic misconduct is any activity (e.g. plagiarism, cheating, falsification, double-submitting, etc.) that compromises academic integrity and subverts the educational process, as well as helping others undertake in an act of academic misconduct. Because of the nature of this class as a workshop, it is very important that everyone in class is creating their own, original work in an ethical, academically responsible way. More information can be found at: <http://college.emory.edu/oue/academic-programs/honor-council/academic-misconduct.html>.

In addition to academic honesty, individuals are expected to behave respectfully toward others and avoid disruptive and obstructive behaviors. Such negative behavior includes (but is not limited to): physical abuse, verbal abuse, written and verbal threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, hazing, possession of controlled substances, possession of alcoholic beverages, irresponsible computer use, cell-phone use (including texting), etc. If there is an emergency situation that requires you to text during class, please let me know beforehand.

One of the best aspects of college life is that it brings together people with a wide array of different personal/cultural beliefs and experiences. Because of this, for our class to be successful, a modicum of trust, decorum, and respect must exist among all participants. Such empathy is especially crucial in a course like this one, where we will occasionally be reading, writing, and talking about potentially sensitive ideas and topics. Any act that compromises, endangers, and/or disrespects the instructor and/or your peers will absolutely not be tolerated.

Student Disabilities:

Emory University's Office of Accessibility Services (OAS), part of the Office of Equity & Inclusion, assists qualified students in obtaining services and ensures that all matters of equal access, reasonable accommodation, and compliance are addressed. Qualified students must register with OAS and file a request for services. Confidentiality is honored and maintained. Additional information about the OAS can be found at: <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/>.

Counseling Services:

Emory University's Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) provides free, confidential services for students, including: initial assessments; crisis intervention; community referrals; brief individual, couples, and group counseling; consultation; community services; and educational workshops. The staff at CAPS knows that student life is a transitional period and can bring pressure and stress. We strive to help students understand this period, find ways of coping with crisis, and grow from these experiences. More information can be found at: <http://studenthealth.emory.edu/cs/>.

Emory University Writing Center:

Tutors in the Emory Writing Center are available to support Emory College students as they work on any type of writing assignment at any stage in the writing process. Tutors can assist with a range of projects, from traditional papers and presentations to websites and multimedia projects. Writing Center tutors work with students on concerns including idea development, structure, use of sources, grammar, and word choice. They do not proofread for students. Instead, they discuss strategies and resources students can use to write, revise, and edit their own work. The Emory Writing Center is located in Callaway North 212. More information – including their hours-of-operation and how to make an appointment – can be found at their website: <http://writingcenter.emory.edu/>.

Canvas:

We will be using Canvas as an online hub for supplemental readings, handouts, assignment prompts, project submissions; workshop submissions, etc. Please let me know if you have any problems with finding and/or accessing the Canvas page for our course, and I will gladly help you. Canvas can be accessed with your Emory Username and Password here: <https://canvas.emory.edu/>.

Public Reading Attendance:

For this course, each student is expected to attend **two (2)** of the public readings provided on the assignment sheet (on Canvas) and to write a brief reflection about the experience of attending the reading. More information can be found on this specific assignment sheet.

Poetry Book Presentation:

For this course, we will be reading several poetry collections together as a class. In addition to this, however, each student will select one poetry collection (with instructor approval) to read and then to present to the rest of the class at the end of the semester. Students will be expected to select (and to receive approval) for their poetry collection by the middle of the semester. More information on the assignment can be found on the specific assignment sheet (on Canvas).

Mandatory Conferences:

Throughout the semester, I'll be talking with each of you during class and, as necessary, during my regular office-hours and by appointment. That said, I am also **requiring** each student to schedule **three (3)** mandatory conferences with me during the semester. Each student **must** meet with me during **Week 4 (i.e. September 11-15)** **and** during **Week 16 (i.e. December 4-8)**. For their third conference, students may choose to meet with me during **Week 8 (i.e. October 9-13)** **or** during **Week 12 (i.e. November 6-10)** -- whichever week works best for your particular schedule. Each conference will last for approximately 20 minutes. The conference weeks are clearly listed on the Course Syllabus below for your convenience.

A Final Prohibition & Disclaimer:

The prohibition: Do **NOT** write poems about anyone in workshop or about school violence. Let's all be friends! And the disclaimer: We're all adults reading about adult issues written by other adults, who sometimes use adult language and ideas to explore very complex adult topics. Let's be adults!

Course Schedule

* This course schedule is subject to revision at my discretion.

** Be ready to read, write, think, and talk each day in class.

*** Bring all relevant course readings/materials each day.

Week:	Date/Topic:	Readings:	Projects:
1	Wed, August 23 - First Day of Class! - Syllabus Review - Project Review - Introductions	- None	- Poem 1 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
2	Wed, August 30 - Concrete vs. Abstract - Poem #1 Workshop	- Poetry Packet A (cv) - Oliver chaps. 1-4	- Poem 1 Comments due (hc) - Signed HCS due (hc) - Poem 2 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
3	Wed, September 6 - Literal & Figurative - Poem #2 Workshop	- Poetry Packet B (cv) - Oliver chap. 11	- Poem 2 Comments due (hc) - Poem 3 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
4	Wed, September 13 - Diction & Syntax - Poem #3 Workshop - ***Conferences (Req.)***	- Poetry Packet C (cv) - Oliver chap. 10	- Poem 3 Comments due (hc)
5	Wed, September 20 - Book #1 Discussion - Makeup Workshop (1-3)	- <i>Karankawa</i> by Rocha	- Book 1 A&A due (hc) - Poem 4 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
6	Wed, September 27 - Sound & Sonics - Poem #4 Workshop	- Poetry Packet D (cv) - Oliver chaps. 5-6	- Poem 4 Comments due (hc) - Poem 5 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
7	Wed, October 4 - Rhythm & Meter - Poem #5 Workshop	- Poetry Packet E (cv) - Oliver chap. 7	- Poem 5 Comments due (hc) - Poem 6 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
8	Wed, October 11 - Line & Stanza - Poem #6 Workshop - ***Conferences (Opt.)***	- Poetry Packet F (cv) - Oliver chaps. 8-9	- Poem 6 Comments due (hc) - Public-Reading Refl. due (hc) - Book Pres. Selection due (hc)
9	Wed, October 18 - Book #2 Discussion - Makeup Workshop (4-6)	- <i>The Night...</i> by Sommers	- Book 2 A&A due (hc) - Poem 7 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
10	Wed, October 25 - Traditional Poetic Forms - Poem #7 Workshop	- Poetry Packet G (cv) - TBD (cv)	- Poem 7 Comments due (hc) - Poem 8 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
11	Wed, November 1 - Found Poetic Forms - Poem #8 Workshop	- Poetry Packet H (cv) - TBD (cv)	- Poem 8 Comments due (hc) - Poem 9 due Sat @ 2 pm (cv)
12	Wed, November 8 - Revision - Poem #9 Workshop - ***Conferences (Opt.)***	- Poetry Packet I (cv) - Oliver chaps. 12-14	- Poem 9 Comments due (hc)

13	Wed, November 15 - Book #3 Discussion - Makeup Workshop (7-9)	- <i>Yearling</i> by Mei-en	- Book 3 A&A due (hc)
14	Wed, November 22 - No Class! (Thanksgiving)	- None	- None
15	Wed, November 29 - Last Day of Class! - Poetry Book Presentations	- Your Poetry Book Pick	- Book Presentation due (hc) - Public-Reading Refl. due (hc)
16	Exam Week - No Class! (Final Exams) - ***Conferences (Req.)***	- None	- Portfolio due (hc @ Conf.)

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By signing and dating below, I am acknowledging that I have read and understand the University's and Instructor's stances on the honor code, academic misconduct, and classroom conduct. Furthermore, I understand the Instructor's expectations (described above) regarding my behavior and required ethical and empathetic treatment of those in class.

(Print Name)

(Date)

(Signature)