

ENGL F376: Intermediate Creative Writing: Poetry



University of Alaska-Fairbanks
Fall Semester 2016
MWF Jan. 17-May 9
11:45 – 12:45 PM (3 Credit Hours)
Classroom: GRUE 405

Instructor: Professor Sean Hill
Office: 846 Gruening
Phone: 474-5307
E-Mail: dlfarmer@alaska.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 and
Thursday, 4:30-5:30; or by appointment

ENGL F111X; ENGL F211X or ENGL F213X; ENGL 270; or permission of instructor

Course Description

From Catalog: ENGL F376 W Intermediate Creative Writing: Poetry (h)

Forms and techniques of poetry. Students' work read and discussed in class and in conference with the instructor. Close study of the techniques of established writers.

The goal of this course is to further develop students' knowledge of the art and craft of poetry and to raise their level of sophistication when engaging poetry. In this course students will analyze published poems for specific strategies and discuss the ways the poet uses these various techniques to establish motivation and emotional depth, and create linguistic music. Following thorough discussions in class, students will write poems that are modeled after or inspired by the poets we have been discussed.

Student Learning Outcomes

Activities the students do in order to achieve mastery.

- A. Articulate stylistic features, rhetorical conventions, and innovations in poetry.
- B. Imitate writing techniques and begin to develop writing skills in poetry.
- C. Write a range of texts that demonstrate knowledge of poetry, its conventions, and its innovations.

Course Goals

Objectives of the teacher.

- A. Reinforce students' understanding of the elements of poetic craft.
- B. Analyze and model various writing techniques used by poets.
- C. Introduce a range of writing assignments that represents conventions and innovations within poetry.

Required Texts

Writing Poems by Boisseau, Bar-Nadav, and Wallace
Wind in a Box by Terrance Hayes
Native Guard by Natasha Trethewey
Approaching Ice by Elizabeth Bradfield
A Murmuration of Starlings by Jake Adam York

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXTS: A good dictionary and a thesaurus

Instructional Methods

The class will consist of in-class discussion of assigned reading, writing exercises, craft lectures, and small peer workshop.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading:

Your grade will be broken down as follows:

40% Poems (10 @ 4% each)
30% Quizzes (6 @ 5% each)
10% Poem critiques
10% Word Bank
10% Final revised Poem

Grade will be based on following scale:

93-100 – A
90-92 – A-
87-89 – B+
83-86 – B
80-82 – B-
73-79 – C+
70-72 – C-
60-69 – D
59 and below – F

This course will not be graded on a curve. Grading will follow UAF guidelines, and plus/minus grading will be used within the following ranges:

A = An honor grade, indicates originality and independent work, a thorough mastery of the subject, and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required (for example out of a possible 100 points, 90 points, or above)

B = Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance (89-80)

C = Indicates a satisfactory or average level of performance (79-70).

D = The lowest passing grade, indicates work of below average quality and performance (69-60).

F = Indicates failure to meet lowest standards (below 59 points).

WRITTEN WORK:

1. Poems (10@ 4% each). **Worth a total of 40% of your course grade.**

2. Quizzes (5 @ 6% each). These quizzes will cover poetic terminology and other material we discuss in class or taken from our reading. **If you are absent on the day of the quiz, you will be given an alternate quiz. You must arrange this with me within one week of your absence. Worth a total of 30% of your course grade.**

3. Word Bank (10 @ 1% each). For ten class meetings, you must look up and write out the correct definition(s) for two unfamiliar words—at least one from the reading for this class or from the subject list I give you. For the reading assignments from this class include the title of the source and the page number, if applicable, where the word occurs along with the definition.

- To earn full points, you must use the definition that is correct for the context of the word in the source. For example, “partial” has two different meanings depending on the context of the sentence in which it’s used.
 - To earn points, you must look up words that are not basic vocabulary. For example, definitions of friend, working, telephone, or elephant will earn no points.
 - Each vocabulary word is worth five points, for a total of 100 points by the end of the semester.
- Worth a total of 10% of your course grade.**

4. Poem Critiques: Five sentences minimum of thoughtful critique per assigned workshop poems.
Worth a total of 10% of your course grade.

5. End of term: A single thoughtfully revised poem, all of your drafts of that poem, and a one-page minimum reflective essay about your revision process in Google Drive folder shared with me. **This is due on the last scheduled class period before Finals week. Worth a total of 10% of your course grade.**

UAF Sponsored Readings (or, otherwise put: EXTRA CREDIT)

Please plan to attend as many of the UAF readings this semester as you can. I will give extra credit, in the equivalent point value of one exercise each (1.5%), for attending up to two of these events. This is a great opportunity to hobnob with actual living writers and enter into the literary community here at UAF. Here is a website with the schedule for the Midnight Sun Visiting Writers Series:

<http://www.alaska.edu/english/midnight-sun-visiting-wri/>

Course Policies

Class Atmosphere and Safety

We will discuss ideas and writing as a class, in small groups, and one-on-one. **All opinions are respected in this class.** Students will be mindful of their classmates’ feelings when commenting on each other’s opinions. **You may disagree with each other, and with me, as long as it is done in an atmosphere of mutual respect.** Use of electronic devices such as laptops, music players/headphones, cell phones and the like distracts from our class focus and is therefore not allowed unless approved by the instructor. Cell phones must be kept silent. **Texting** in class is disrespectful and distracting and **will not be tolerated.**

Attendance and Participation

I conduct an active writer-centered classroom. Your **attendance** and participation is an integral part of the course. **Each absence after three will automatically lower your final grade by 5%** unless we have discussed the absences and agreed on an alternative arrangement. (Alternate arrangements include attending outside literary events and/or additional writing assignments. Such arrangement must be initiated by the student). I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. The point is not to punish or forgive: the point is that when a student is out of class, that student is missing the learning that goes on there, and is not contributing to the learning of others. Absence is never an excuse for coming to class unprepared—it is *your* responsibility to find out what was missed, including handouts and/or changes to this syllabus.

In addition, I (and I imagine many of you) find late arrivals disruptive. Please make every effort to be on time. **Participation** means coming to class prepared, having completed and read all assignments, and contributing informed thoughts, ideas and critiques.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center, located on the 8th floor of Gruening, provides a valuable (yet free!) service to UAF students. The center provides tutors who are available to go over your papers in detail. These tutors are generally graduate students who are well trained in helping students with all aspects of the writing process. Sometimes these tutors are better able to provide help and feedback than even your professors. And it's not just for remedial writers—even the most experienced writers know that sometimes an outside reader can help identify and overcome stumbling blocks. The Writing Center can be reached at 474-5314. Hours are:

- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday,
- 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday
- 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Friday
- 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Sunday

Disability Services

Please contact me if you are having any difficulties with the material due to a documented disability. If you have special needs and have not done so, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services (208 Whitaker Building) at 474-5655. I'm more than willing to accommodate you in a reasonable manner to help you succeed in this course.

ENG F376 Class Schedule
Fall 2016
Hill

Schedule:

You will be expected to have completed the reading/ assignments prior to the dates indicated. If you don't read the material before class, it will be difficult to have meaningful discussions. On days when reading is assigned, bring your text so that you will be able to follow what is being discussed.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One

Sep 4 Introduction to Course: Get to know each activities, Expert/Authority language talk

Week Two

Sep 9 Reading: Writing Poems: "Starting Out" pp 1-19

Sep 11 Reading: Writing Poems: "Subject Matter" pp 97-116

Sep 12 Deadline for adding classes, late registration and fee payment; 5 p.m. in person, midnight at UAOnline

Week Three

Sep 16 Assignment Due 1 pages 15-16 # 1 and 2, 3, or 4

Sep 18 Reading: Writing Poems: "The Sound (And Look) of Sense" pp 77-94

Sep 19 Deadline for 100 percent refund of tuition and fees

Deadline for student- and faculty-initiated drops (course does not appear on academic record)

Week Four

Sep 23 Assignment Due 2 pages 90-91 # 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5

Conferences Group 1

Sep 25 Reading: Writing Poems: "Metaphor" pp 117-136

Week Five

Sep 30 Assignment Due 3 pages 131-132 # 1, 2, 3, or 4

Conferences Group 2

Oct 2 Reading: Writing Poems: "Making the Line (I)" pp 41-58

Week Six

Oct 7 Assignment Due 4 pages 53-55 # 2, 4, or 5

Oct 9 Reading: Writing Poems: "Tale, Tell, and Tone" pp 137-157

Week Seven

Oct 14 Assignment Due 5 pages 152 # 1, 2, 3, or 4

Conferences Group 1

Oct 16 Reading: Writing Poems: "The Mysteries of Language" pp 158-176

Week Eight

Oct 21 Assignment Due 6 pages 172-173 # 2, 3, 4, or 5

Conferences Group 2

Oct 23 Reading: Writing Poems: "Finding the Poem" pp 179-200

Week Nine

Oct 28 Assignment Due 7 pages 194-195 # 2, 3, 4, or 5

Oct 30 Reading: Writing Poems: "Devising and Revising" pp 201-218

Oct 31 Deadline for student- and faculty-initiated withdrawals (W grade appears on academic record)

Week Ten

Nov 4 Assignment Due 8 pages 212-213 # 1, 2, 3, or 4

Nov 6 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 1 Due

Week Eleven

Nov 11 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 1 Due

Nov 13 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 2 Due

Week Twelve

Nov 18 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 2 Due

Nov 20 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 3 Due

Week Thirteen

Nov 25 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 3 Due

Nov 27 – 30 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS**

Week Fourteen

Dec 2 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 4 Due

Dec 4 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 4 Due

Week Fifteen

Dec 9 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 5 Due

Dec 11 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 5 Due

Class Poet Anthology / Last Day of Class

FINAL REVISION PORTFOLIOS DUE THURSDAY DEC. 11

FINAL EXAM PERIOD TUESDAY, DEC. 16 AT 3:15 – 5:15