



Syllabus

ENG 233 Poetry Writing

General Information

Date March 3rd, 2021

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Department Humanities

Course Prefix ENG

Course Number 233

Course Title Poetry Writing

Course Information

Catalog Description This course focuses on the writing of Poetry. Various forms and styles of poetry such as the sonnet, sestina, free verse, and ekphrasitic will be composed. Students will learn and practice strategies for brainstorming, drafting, critiquing, and revising their work, as well as refining the critical expertise and technical language to help them better discuss works-in-progress. Previous experience with poetry is not required, but the student is expected to be proficient in the mechanics of writing.

Credit Hours 3

Lecture Contact Hours 3

Lab Contact Hours 0

Other Contact Hours 0

Grading Scheme Letter

Prerequisites

ENG 101

Co-requisites

None

First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category

The Arts

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Vitality, Inquiry, and Perseverance

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Write poetry in a variety of the forms in order to practice the elements of the craft.
2. Use generative strategies to craft original poetry to be critiqued by their peers and professors.
3. Revise drafts by integrating feedback from classmates and professors received through workshops, conferences, and written comments.
4. Read, explicate, and respond in writing to at least one piece of published poetry in order to analyze craft.

Outline of Topics Covered

General Trajectory:

Definitions and history of poetry

Features and characteristics of the genre

Craft Elements and Considerations (style, voice, figures of speech, etc)

Strategies for Reading-for-the-Craft

Strategies for Generating

Strategies for Drafting

Strategies for Revising

Research Strategies, including incorporating sources

Elements of Poetic Craft:

- **Voice: the impact of narrative and perspective as defined by individual, idiosyncratic observation and expression**
- **Theme: the guiding meaning(s) or intent of the poem**
- **Symbolism: how specific items, actions, repetitions, and images reveal themes or**

preoccupations of the poem

- **Metaphor, simile, and conceit: the application of non-literal, figurative representation to words or phrases**
- **Tone: the general character or attitude of the writing**
- **Imagery: vivid and vibrant description that appeals to readers' senses**
- **Sound & rhythm: the fluidity, musicality, and meter of the language**
- **Line composition and economy: attentiveness to line length and line-breaks for specific effect**
- **Stanza coordination: the organization of lines relating to a similar thought or topic serving its own concept and unique purpose**

Forms and styles of Poetry (including such things as but not limited to):

- **Free Verse**
- **The sonnet (both metered and free verse)**
- **Sestina**
- **Villanelle**
- **Haiku and tanka**
- **The Golden Shovel**
- **Short lyric**
- **Narrative**
- **Persona**
- **Ekphrasis**

Reading in the Genre:

- **Origins and evolution of form and style through history with a focus on contemporary poetry**
- **Analysis of aesthetic choices and craft in established literature**
- **Examination of historical trends within genre practice as well as the contemporary transformation of the written arts**
- **The ways the historical moment informs rhetorical motivation and intent**

Workshop Skills:

Identification and discussion of the various aesthetic elements practiced within the genres

Oral presentation of key observations of craft

Discussion of strategies for invention and revision beyond the drafting stage

Ethics: the privacy of people to whom you refer within the poetry, responsibility to the factual truth vs. poetic license when complex issues can be compromised by invention, whether or not one's personal opinion or insight leads to defamation or perceived cruelty

Program Affiliation

This course is required as a core program course in the following program(s)
AA Liberal Arts and Sciences - Writing