

**Creative Writing 6166-22C5**  
**Fall 2018**  
**Ange Mlinko**

**Class meetings:** Mondays, Periods 9-11, CBD 224

**Office:** Turlington, Creative Writing Suite #E

**Office hours:** By appointment; also 2-4 pm Tuesdays (subject to coffee breaks)

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Rhetoric has traditionally been a component of a poet's formal education. Some rhetorical tropes like metaphor and metonymy lie at or near the heart of much of Western poetry; some tropes are antilyrical, like irony; some tropes are ornamental, like alliteration or simile (not included here); some are counterintuitive like anthimeria. Rhetoric is the art of verbal persuasion; tropes have developed as devices that aid in this persuasion. A poem is particularly persuasive when it uses rhetorical tropes originally, and masterfully. I would argue that, in the absence of meter and rhyme in American poetry, rhetorical tropes have become the important structuring devices of free verse.

We can't do all the tropes I would like in thirteen sessions, but I have winnowed my selection to the following:

*[September 3: No class—Labor Day]*

September 10: Metaphor

September 17: Metonymy

September 24: Irony/Paradox

October 1: Apophasis/Periphrasis

October 8: Hyperbole/Litotes

October 15: Prosopopoeia

October 22: Paranomasia/Rhyme

October 29: Polysyndeton/Asyndeton

November 5: Adnomination/Autonomasia

*[November 12: No class—Veterans Day]*

November 19: Anaphora

November 26: Anthimeria

December 3: Anachronism/Archaism/Cliché/

This class is not a workshop per se. Each week you will download a PDF poem packet from Canvas. That week's PDF will contain examples of the trope to be discussed. You may try your hand at writing a poem that uses that device, post it to Canvas by Sunday at midnight, and bring copies to class. We will do cold readings of your poems, after a discussion of the poem packet. If you need supplemental reading on the definition of a trope, I urge you to consult the *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*, the *Oxford English Dictionary*, and/or any guide to classical rhetoric. Your poems will not be graded, and I do not require you to bring a poem every week if you can't manage it. You will be graded on your attendance and participation in class. Please only bring poems to class that imitate the trope for that week. These are supposed to be studies in imitation.

**Boilerplate**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester; but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.