Creative Writing 1301: Beginning Poetry Writing

CRW 1301 Section 1653
Fall 2016
Time: W 10-E1 (5:10 –8:10 p.m.)
Room: Matherly Hall 0102

Instructor: Erin O'Luanaigh
Office Hours: [TBA] and by appointment
Email: eoluanaigh@ufl.edu

Required Texts

Writing Poems [8th Ed.] by Michelle Boisseau, Hadara Bar-Nadav, & Robert Wallace
ISBN: 0205176054
NOTE: This is our textbook for the course.

Incarnadine by Mary Szybist
ISBN: 9781555976354
NOTE: This is the required book for our book review assignment.

Handouts posted to Canvas will comprise the majority of our poetic reading this semester.
You are expected to print and bring to class *all* handouts as they are assigned (including handouts from previous weeks).

Course Description & Objectives

This course is structured on the principle that in order to write poetry well, you must first read, understand, and critique poetry well. Therefore, it is roughly divided into two halves. The first consists of ample reading, discussion, and writing about poetry as an art, and about great poems in particular. The second, or "workshop" half, will require you to write original poetry of your own and to workshop poems written by your peers (while continuing the study of published poems begun in the first half).

Our textbook, *Writing Poems*, will provide the principles and vocabulary that will inform our discussions throughout the semester. We will apply its principles to our readings (which will include numerous Canvas handouts, as well as a recent book-length work of poetry), and to your own work in the workshop portion.

In addition to the 8 poems required, you will write several critical papers to further your understanding of poetry. Thus, this course fulfills the University's 6,000-word requirement.

The semester will culminate in a final portfolio containing both the original and edited versions of all 8 of your poems, and a 1,000-word review of our assigned poetry book, *Incarnadine*.

This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/liberalarts/alc/english.aspx

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Course Policies and Procedures

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Respect

Respect is the most important feature of the creative writing classroom. We will be sharing our thoughts and, later, our poems with one another on a regular basis. This course **REQUIRES** an atmosphere of mutual respect at all times. Naturally, then, I don't tolerate disrespect. Any disrespectful behavior grants me the right to ask you to leave the classroom and count you absent for the day.

Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices are not permitted to be used during class. This means they should not only be off, but out of sight—not sitting out on your desk. If I have to ask you more than once to put a device away, I have the right to ask you to leave the classroom and count you absent for the day.

Hats are not permitted in my classroom, except for religious purposes.

Expectations for Class Preparedness

Textbook reading and hand-outs will be assigned on a weekly basis. You are expected to come to class having read the material **thoroughly**. This means taking notes, underlining and marking important sections in your textbook, and fully annotating assigned poems. I will call on students at random throughout class for comment, discussion, **and often to read poems aloud**. If it is clear that you are not prepared, I will ask you to leave class and return when you *are* prepared. I will then count you absent for the day.

This policy holds for the workshop portion of the course, when you will be expected to annotate your peers' poems as thoroughly as you did the published ones. During the workshop portion, every student will be required to share at least four written comments per poem (two positive and two critical) during class discussion. Failure to annotate these poems will similarly result in dismissal and a mark of "absent" for that day.

Class business will be conducted through email and Canvas/E-learning. You are expected to check both platforms regularly.

Late Assignments

I don't accept them. Manage your time wisely and be prepared to work hard.

Although I don't accept late assignments, you may ask for an extension up to 24 hours before the assignment is due (and **no later**). This extension will grant you five extra days to complete the assignment at no penalty. You are limited to **two** extensions over the course of the semester.

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**.

This class meets once a week. If you miss one class, it is equivalent to missing an entire week. Therefore, after three absences, you will fail this course.

You are allowed one absence this semester without explanation, but you are **not allowed** to miss a class period in which your poem is workshopped. If you do, you will receive a zero for that poem.

Arriving late or **leaving early** counts as one absence. Tardiness may be excused if and only if I find the reasons acceptable (e.g. long exam in the previous class).

Grade Appeals

In 1000- and 2000- level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant. Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.

Statement of Composition (C) Credit

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition. For more information, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1213/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx

Statement of Writing Requirement

This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see: http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/writing-requirement/aspx

Statement of Student Disability Services

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Statement on Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: http://www.hr.ufl.edu/eeo/sexharassment.htm

Statement on Academic Honesty

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS

8 Poems (at 20 points each)	160	
Practice Workshop 1	20	
Practice Workshop 2	20	
Workshop Participation (at 15 points each)	90	
"What is Poetry?" essay	10	[300 words]
Critical Paper 1	40	[1,000 words]
Critical Paper 2	50	[1,000 words]
Critical Paper 3	60	[1,000 words]
Critical Paper 4	100	[1,300 words]
Memorized Recitation & Presentation	120	
Poem Revision Response	10	[200 words]
Portfolio		
Cover	10	
Artist's Statement	10	[200 words]
Final Poems + Revisions	200	
Book Review	100	[1,000 words]
Total Points	1000	[6,000 words]

GRADING SCALE

A 4.0 93-100 930-1000	C 2.0 73-76 730-769
A- 3.67 90-92 900-929	C- 1.67 70-72 700-729
B+ 3.33 87-89 870-899	D+ 1.33 67-69 670-699
B 3.0 83-86 830-869	D 1.0 63-66 630-669
B- 2.67 80-82 800-829	D- 0.67 60-62 600-629
C+ 2.33 77-79 770-799	E 0.00 0-59 0-599

GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Essays	Poems
A	An "A" paper responds to the assignment prompt in full. It presents an original, specific, and clearly-worded argument supported by sufficient evidence from authoritative sources. Writing style is engaging, clear, and concise,	An "A" poem responds to the assignment prompt in full. It uses vivid and carefully considered language and follows an original and cohesive vision. It employs poetic techniques discussed in class to a constructive

	and the paper employs a logical organization. It is free from mechanical or formatting errors and cites sources using the proper citation format.	purpose. Its sentences make complete grammatical sense and it is free from mechanical or formatting errors.
B	A "B" paper responds to the assignment prompt. It presents an original argument, but ideas may need further development or clearer articulation. The argument is supported by evidence. Writing style is generally clear and organization is logical, but there is room for improvement. There are very few mechanical errors and sources are cited properly.	A "B" poem responds to the assignment prompt. It presents a unique vision, but ideas may need further development. It uses poetic techniques but could be doing more to bring craft and drama to the poem. Language used is effective but may need some refining. There are very few mechanical errors.
C	A "C" paper may not fully respond to the prompt. Argument is overly broad or in need of clarification and development. Some evidence is used to support the argument, but claims are not sufficiently defended. Writing style lacks clarity and organization is problematic. Several mechanical errors or incorrect citations.	A "C" poem may not fully respond to the prompt. Vision is disjointed or overly clichéd. Poetic techniques are not used to their fullest potential. Language seems hastily chosen or unoriginal. There are several mechanical errors.
D	A "D" paper does not fully respond to the assignment prompt. Argument is underdeveloped or nonexistent. Little or no evidence is used to support claims. Writing style and organization are unclear. Many mechanical errors or incorrect citations.	A "D" poem does not fully respond to the assignment prompt. Poem seems hastily written with little overall vision to hold it together, unoriginal word choices, and many mechanical errors. Poetic techniques are missing or misused.
E	An "E" paper fails to respond to the assignment prompt (including papers that do not meet the minimum word	An "E" poem fails to respond to the assignment prompt. Poems that are late or

	requirement). Papers that are late or plagiarized will also receive an "E."	plagiarized will also receive an "E."

Description of Major Assignments

Poems

Points: 8 poems at 20 points each = 160 points

You will turn in 8 poems to assigned prompts. **Note:** The first 2 poems you turn in will NOT be workshopped and ONLY have to be submitted in hard copy.

Poem Submission Requirements

After the first 2 poems, all poems must be turned in to me via email **AND** hard copy on the day they are due. I must receive emailed poems **before class begins**, and hard copies when I ask for them in class. If I receive only one of these forms and not the other, you'll automatically be penalized 5%.

Emailed assignments must be in .pdf, .doc, or .docx format.

If I receive neither emailed copy or hard copy on the day the assignment is due, you will receive no credit, unless you have previously arranged for an extension. No excuses or exceptions.

All poems must be formatted as follows:
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- In the upper-left-hand corner:
  - your name
  - the class name (CRW 1301)
  - the assignment's title (given on each prompt handout)
  - the date
- 1" margins on all sides
- printed on 8 ½" x 11" white, smooth-edged paper

Workshops

Points: 6 workshops at 15 participation points each = 90 points

Quite simply, students should be vocal but respectful participants in workshop. Be prepared with printed copies and ample written comments.

Workshop procedure: Poems are due the week before they will be workshopped. I will review your submitted poems, determine which poems will be workshopped, and send you copies of those poems by email. (Not **every** poem will be workshopped **every** week!) When you receive

the emailed poems, it will be your responsibility to print one copy of each and mark them with feedback. Prepare at least two positive and two critical comments per poem. You **must bring all poems to class** on the day of workshop.

Practice Workshops

Points: 2 workshops at 20 points each = 40 points

Before we workshop each other's poems, we'll do two "dress rehearsal" or practice workshops. The first will be an in-class activity with a "cold" reading of a poem (meaning, a poem you've never seen before).

The second practice workshop will be an in-class discussion of a take-home poem. You'll come to class with prepared comments, and we'll hold another workshop "rehearsal."

Points are based on attendance, participation, and the quality and number of comments on the hard copies of your workshopped poems (which you'll turn in to me at the end of both practices).

Memorized Recitation & Poem Presentation

Points: 100 points for recitation, 20 points for presentation

Each of you will recite a memorized poem before the class. The memorized poem must be at least 14 lines long. **Note**: You may **NOT** recite only the first 14 lines of a longer poem. The memorized poem must be complete. You may choose from any of the poets we are studying, or from poets.org. I must approve your chosen poem.

When you are finished with your recitation, you will then give an informal, low-stress presentation about why you chose this particular poem, who wrote it, when it was written, what features it has, etc. More information will be provided in a handout as we get closer to the due-date.

Critical Papers

Points: 40 points for Paper 1, 50 for Paper 2, 60 for Papers 3 & 4 = 210 points
Word Count: 1,000 words x 4 papers = 4,000 words

Critical papers will be assigned in the first half of the semester, and will require you to actively engage with various poetic readings and/or textbook chapters. Specific requirements for each paper will be issued in 4 assignment handouts as we get closer to their due-dates.

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Paper Submission Requirements

Critical papers (and, indeed, any written assignment that is NOT a poem) must be turned in to me via Canvas **AND** hard copy on the day they are due.

Papers should be (properly!) uploaded to Canvas **before class begins**. Hard copies must be handed to me when I ask for them in class. No excuses or exceptions, unless you have previously arranged for an extension.

If you submit a hard copy but do not submit to Canvas, **you will earn a zero on the assignment.** If you submit a copy to Canvas but not a hard copy, you will earn my wrath and ire, along with an automatic penalization of 5%.

All papers and poems must be formatted as follows:
- 12-point Times New Roman font
- In the upper-left-hand corner:
  - your name
  - the class name (CRW 1301)
  - the assignment's title
  - the date
- 1" margins on all sides
- printed on 8 ½" x 11" white, smooth-edged paper
- **double-spaced**

MLA formatting is not required.

If assignments do not meet the minimum word requirement, they will be penalized.

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Book Review

Points: 100
Word Count: 1,000

We will be reading Mary Szybist's *Incarnadine* (winner of the 2013 National Book Award for poetry) during the last weeks of the semester. We will discuss only limited selections from the book in class so that you may form your own opinions while reading. By this point, you will be well-versed in reading poems closely and sharpening your own critical eye. This assignment will be the culmination of our critical work.

Submission requirements for this assignment are the same as the "Paper Submission Requirements" outlined in the box on the previous page.

Note: You are allowed to quote lines or short passages of the work in your review, but the total number of quotations should not exceed 5% of your review.

Final Portfolio

Points: Cover (10) + Artist's Statement (10) + Poems and Revisions (200) = 220 points
Word Count: 200 (for Artist's Statement)

Your final portfolio will include 8 poems which have been revised from their original states to take into account my feedback and the feedback of your peers. (Learning to edit your own work is an important component of this class and a vital skill for any future writing.)

Your portfolio should include 2 copies of each poem: the original poem you turned in **with** my comments (yes, you must save these papers throughout the semester!), and a clean copy of your revised poem.

Your portfolio must also have an elegantly designed cover (which we will discuss later) and an "Artist's Statement" of 200 words. This statement must tell me the story of your writing—its origins, influences, and goals—and any threads throughout your collected poems that you would like to highlight. Again, we will discuss this in greater detail later.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Students may earn extra credit by attending the MFA@FLA reading series—readings of original poetry and fiction by students in UF's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program. These readings take place (usually) on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. at The Bull downtown. (The Bull is a bar, but you needn't be over 21 to attend. You **DO**, however, need to be over 21 to drink.) The readings last approximately 1 hour. I will email you the schedule when it becomes available. Each reading attended (with a short paragraph of about 50 words, reviewing the experience) is worth 5 points of extra credit. If you attend all readings (including faculty readings or any other reading events that occur throughout the semester) you can earn approximately 50 extra credit points. In other words, the worth of one Critical Paper.

Tentative Schedule

N.B.: "Reading Assignments" will be discussed in the following class.

Class 1: August 24
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Syllabus & Introductions
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 1 in *Writing Poems* (pgs. 1-19)
  Canvas Poem Packet #1
- **Homework:** "What is Poetry?" (300 words)
  POEM #1 (hard-copy only)

Class 2: August 31
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Chapter 1 & Poem Packet #1
- **Due:** "What is Poetry?" essay (in hard copy & on Canvas)
  POEM #1
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapters 2 & 3 in *Writing Poems* (pgs. 23-58)
  Canvas Poem Packet #2
- **Homework:** Critical Paper 1 (1,000 words)

Class 3: September 7
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Chapters 2 & 3 and Poem Packet #2
- **Due:** Critical Paper 1
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapters 4 & 5 in *Writing Poems* (pgs. 59-94)
  Canvas Poem Packet #3
- **Homework:** Critical Paper 2 (1,000 words)
  POEM #2

Class 4: September 14
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Chapter 4 and Poem Packet #3
- **Due: POEM #2 (hard copy only)**
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapters 5 & 6 in *Writing Poems* (pgs. 97-136)
  Canvas Poem Packet #4
- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 2

Class 5: September 21
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Chapters 5 & 6 and Poem Packet #4
- **Due:** Critical Paper 2
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapters 7 & 8 in *Writing Poems* (pgs. 137-176)
  Canvas Poem Packet #5
- **Homework:** Critical Paper 3 (1,000 words)

Class 6: September 28
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Chapters 7 & 8 and Poem Packet #5
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapters 9 & 10 in *Writing Poems* (pgs. 179-200)
  Canvas Poem Packet #6

- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 3
            Start researching poem for memorization/presentation

Class 7: October 5
- **PRACTICE WORKSHOP #1**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Chapters 9 & 10, and Poem Packet #6
- **Due:** Critical Paper 3
- **Reading Assignment:** Canvas Poem Packet #7
- **Homework:** Critical Paper 4 (1,300 words)
            Prepare notes for Practice Workshop 2 poem
            Continue researching poem for memorization/presentation
            POEM #3

Class 8: October 12
- **PRACTICE WORKSHOP #2**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Poem Packet #7
- **Due:** Selected poem for memorization/presentation
        POEM #3
- **Reading Assignment:** N/A
- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 4
            Begin memorization
            POEM #4

Class 9: October 19
- **WORKSHOP #1**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Workshop Guidelines & How-to
- **Due: POEM #4**
- **Reading Assignment:** Canvas Poem Packet #8
- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 4
            Continue memorization
            POEM #5

Class 10: October 26
- **WORKSHOP #2**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Poem Packet #8
- **Due:** Critical Paper 4
        POEM #5
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 11 in *Writing Poems* (pgs. 201-218)
- **Homework:** Continue memorization
            POEM #6

Class 11: November 2
- **WORKSHOP #3**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Chapter 11 and Revision Lecture
- **Due: POEM #6**

- **Reading Assignment:** Canvas Poem Packet #9
- **Homework:** Revision Response Paper
                Continue memorization
                POEM #7

Class 12: November 9
- **WORKSHOP #4**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Canvas Poem Packet #9
- **Due:** Revision Response Paper
        POEM #7
- **Reading Assignment:** *Incarnadine* (pgs. 1-33)
- **Homework:** Continue memorization
                POEM #8

Class 13: November 16
- **WORKSHOP #5**
- **Poem Recitations/Presentations**
- **Due: POEM #8**
- **Reading Assignment:** Canvas Poem Packet #10
                        Incarnadine (pgs. 34-64)
- **Homework:** Book Review
                Start Final Portfolio

NO CLASS November 23 (Thanksgiving Break)

Class 14: November 30
- **WORKSHOP #6**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Poem Packet 10 and *Incarnadine*
- **Reading Assignment:** N/A
- **Homework:** Book Review
                Continue Final Portfolio

Class 15: December 7
- **STUDENT READING**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Final Thoughts
- **Due: Final Portfolio & Book Review**