

CRW 1301—Beginning Poetry Writing, (Section 7622, Class 12304), Fall 2021

Instructor Name: Peter Vertacnik

Course meeting times & locations: Friday, Periods 6-8 (12:50-3:50pm) TUR 2305

Office Location and Hours: Office: TUR 4335. Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Thursdays, 2:00-3:30pm, and by appointment.

Course website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/442077>

Instructor Email: peter.vertacnik@ufl.edu

Course Description:

In this class, we will read poems, write about poems, and compose poems of our own. The course will begin with an introduction to and intensive study of various aspects of poetry and verse-form, to include written critical analyses covering a wide range of poems. After week seven, we will also begin drafting, workshopping, and revising our own original poems.

By the end of this course, students will be expected to have a foundation in the vocabulary of poetic devices, structures, and forms, and to be able to read and talk about poetry in an academic setting. Students will be expected to conduct themselves as productive members of a creative writing workshop, and to demonstrate a sincere and honest attempt to develop their own writing practice.

COVID Statement:

This semester the university has mandated a return to face-to-face (F2F) teaching. I am mindful, however, of the fact that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic and am aware of the fact that COVID-19 continues to impact our daily lives. Thus, if you are experiencing any hardships because of the virus, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may make any necessary arrangements contingent on your circumstances.

If you suspect you may have been exposed to COVID, please report for testing immediately and observe an obligatory quarantine period. <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/> You should also report to me immediately so that you may arrange to continue your coursework. Together we will figure it out.

During our face-to-face encounters in class and in-person office hours, while it is not required, it is expected / strongly recommended that we all wear face coverings as advised by the CDC for our safety, even if fully vaccinated.

Finally, if you are not yet vaccinated, it's highly recommended that you get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

General Education Objectives:

This course confers General Education credit for Composition (C), and also fulfills 6,000 of the university's 24,000-word writing requirement (WR).

- *Composition courses* provide instruction in the methods and conventions of standard written English (grammar, punctuation, usage), as well as the techniques that produce effective texts. Composition courses are writing intensive. They require multiple drafts submitted to your instructor for feedback before final submission.

- Course content should include multiple forms of effective writing, different writing styles, approaches and formats, and methods to adapt writing to different audiences, purposes and contexts. Students should learn to organize complex arguments in writing using thesis statements, claims and evidence, and to analyze writing for errors in logic.
- The University *Writing Requirement (WR)* ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. To receive Writing Requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. This means that written assignments must meet minimum word requirements totaling 6000 words.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication and critical thinking:

- **Content:** Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the academic discipline.
- **Communication:** Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline. Students will participate in class discussions throughout the semester to reflect on assigned readings.
- **Critical Thinking:** Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

Required Texts:

An Introduction to Poetry, - Kennedy and Gioia, 13th ed.

Popular Longing - Natalie Shapero

Prometeo - C. Dale Young

The Survival Expo - Caki Wilkinson

Recommended Texts:

The Elements of Style - Strunk and White, 4th ed.

*You may buy used copies of any of these texts, if available. Make sure textbook is the 13th edition.

**Any additional texts will be made available via Canvas

Assignments:

- 2 Poem Analyses (1,000 words each; 100 points): These brief essays will respond to questions about one or more poetic devices and consider how they operate within an individual poem. Poems to be analyzed will come from our textbook (pgs. 279-477) or one of the three assigned collections. Additionally, you may use poems found on the Poetry Foundation website (www.poetryfoundation.org), as long as they do not also appear in Chaps. 1-14 of our textbook. Chapters 22-24 in our textbook will also serve as a valuable writing resource. Turned in via Canvas.
- 2 Close Reading Essays (2,000 words each; 200 points): These longer essays will consider how a broader range of poetic devices / themes operate across a group of poems by either the same or different authors. Poems to be analyzed will come from our textbook (pgs. 279-477) or one of the three assigned collections. Additionally, you may use poems found on the Poetry Foundation website (www.poetryfoundation.org), as long as they do not also appear in Chaps. 1-14 of our textbook. Chapters 22-24 in our textbook will also serve as a valuable writing resource. Turned in via Canvas.

- 7 Poems (100 points each): You will compose poems based on prompts that I will provide. Poems will be evaluated based on seriousness of undertaking, adherence to prompt, and professionalism / polish (free of typos/grammatical errors), not on their success or failure as first drafts. You are encouraged to take risks and go where your writing leads you. Each poem will be turned in via hard copy in class **and** in Canvas.
- Final Portfolio (200 points): You will revise 5 poems of your choosing, taking into account my comments, your classmates' comments from workshop, and your own artistic aesthetics, judgment, and intuition. Turned in via Canvas.

Please note: I will provide more specific instructions for each of these (via Canvas + class) as they are assigned.

- Class Participation (100 points): You will earn class participation credit based on your preparedness for active and mindful participation in class discussions and workshops. This also will include a small number of in-class writing exercises.

Total Word Count: 6,000 (not including poems)

Total Points: 1,600

Course Policies:

1. *Assignments*: You must complete all *assignments* to receive credit for this course.
2. *Attendance*: Given that we meet only once a week, you are allowed **one** absence without explanation or excuse. Subsequent unexplained or unexcused absences will affect your grade. **If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, you cannot pass the course.**
3. *Tardiness*: Be on time to show respect to your colleagues and me. Should lateness be unavoidable, understand that **3 late arrivals without advance notice = 1 absence.**
4. *Classroom Behavior*: Be respectful and attentive to your classmates and to me when we are talking. Critique others as you would like to be critiqued—for me, that means substantive, actionable feedback that respects the intention and inherent validity of the submitted work.
5. *UF's policy on Sexual Harassment*: The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/about/title-ix-rights/>
6. *Paper Format & Submission*: All assignments should be typed in **Times New Roman 12 pt font** with standard margins. **All assignments except poems should be double-spaced.** (Spacing and line length of poems, of course, will be formatted according to the poet's decisions on aesthetics and form.) **Submit all poems, whether to me or for workshop, on paper in class AND on Canvas. If your poem due for workshop, you will be responsible for bringing the specified number of copies.** Submit all other assignments on Canvas as specified in each assignment's instructions. All analyses and close reading essays should be formatted **according to MLA guidelines, a guide to which is available in our textbooks as well as online.**
7. *Late Papers/Assignments*: Acceptance of late papers/assignments will be at my discretion and dependent on circumstances. **Here, as with absences, advance notice is key.**
8. *Paper Maintenance Responsibilities*. Keep duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Save all returned, graded work until the semester is over.
9. *Academic Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism*. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the

highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

As specified in the UF Honor Code: A Student must not represent as the Student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.

Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student’s own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student’s own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.

Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.

Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

10. *Students with disabilities* who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>), which will provide appropriate documentation to give your instructor early in the semester.
11. *Students who are in distress* or who are in need of counseling or urgent help: please contact <https://umatter.ufl.edu/> or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to you. UF’s Counseling and Wellness Center offers additional support: 352-392-1575, or contact them online: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>
12. *For information on UF Grading policies, see:* <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
13. *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, in the Department office (4008 TUR). Please contact Ms. Blount at cblount@ufl.edu Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.
14. *Course Evaluations.* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages requesting that you do this online: <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>
15. *Policy on environmental sustainability.* Whenever possible, I will use paper-sparing electronic media to distribute our course materials. Consider purchasing electronic editions of assigned texts when they are available or used copies of print texts. If you do not elect to keep your print books, consider sharing them with others after the semester ends. (For example, you could donate them to the Alachua County [Friends of the Library](#) annual book sale.)

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Read/View for Class	DUE
Week 1: Course Intro / Reading a Poem / Listening to a Voice / Poem Analysis #1 Assigned	8/27/21	<i>An Introduction to Poetry</i> , Chapters 1 & 2 (Kennedy and Gioia)	N/A
Week 2: Words / Saying and Suggesting	9/3/21	Chapters 3 & 4 (Kennedy and Gioia)	Poem Analysis #1
Week 3: Imagery / Figures of Speech / Poem Analysis #2 Assigned	9/10/21	Chapters 5 & 6 (Kennedy and Gioia)	N/A

Week 4: Song / Sound	9/17/21	Chapters 7 & 8 (Kennedy and Gioia)	Poem Analysis #2
Week 5: Rhythm / Closed Form / Close Reading Essay #1 Assigned / Poem #1 Assigned	9/24/21	Chapters 9 & 10 (Kennedy and Gioia)	N/A
Week 6: Open Form / Symbol / Poem #2 Assigned	10/1/21	Chapters 11 & 12 (Kennedy and Gioia)	Close Reading Essay #1 / Poem #1
Week 7: Homecoming	10/8/21	No Class: Go Gators!	N/A
Week 8: Workshop #1 / Myth and Narrative / Poetry and Personal Identity / Poem #3 Assigned	10/15/21	Chapters 13&14 (Kennedy and Gioia)	Poem #2
Week 9: Workshop #2 / Shapero / Close Reading Essay #2 Assigned / Poem #4 Assigned	10/22/21	<i>Popular Longing</i> (Shapero) "The Elegy's Structures," by D.A. Powell (Canvas)	Poem #3
Week 10: Workshop #3 / Young / Poem #5 Assigned	10/29/21	<i>Popular Longing</i> (Shapero) / <i>Prometeo</i> (Young) "The Mid-course Turn," by Jerry Harp (Canvas)	Poem #4 / Close Reading Essay #2
Week 11: Workshop #4 / Young / Poem #6 Assigned	11/5/21	<i>Prometeo</i> (Young)	Poem #5
Week 12: Workshop #5 / Wilkinson / Poem #7 Assigned	11/12/21	<i>The Survival Expo</i> (Wilkinson)	Poem #6
Week 13: Workshop #6 / Wilkinson	11/19/21	<i>The Survival Expo</i> (Wilkinson)	Poem #7
Week 14: Thanksgiving Break	11/26/21	No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!	N/A
Week 15: Workshop #7 / Publishing Poems / Closing Thoughts (Last day of class!!)	12/3/21	Publishing Poems (Canvas)	N/A
Weeks 16-17: Reading Days / Finals	N/A	N/A	Final Portfolio Due: Monday, Dec 14 in Canvas, by 11:59pm.

Grading Scale:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.00

I expect you to seriously undertake any work required for this course and to always demonstrate a sincere and earnest attempt to produce your best effort. I will make my specific expectations for individual assignments clear to you when the assignments are introduced.

For critical responses and other expository writing, I will provide detailed grading rubrics on Canvas that are tailored to each specific assignment. All poems except your final portfolio will be evaluated based on three criteria: seriousness of undertaking, adherence to prompt, and professionalism/polish (i.e. free of typos, grammatical errors, etc).

Class participation points will be awarded each class based on your preparation for and engagement with the course material, including both assigned readings and your colleagues' workshop submissions. **I expect you to come to class prepared for thorough, substantive, and engaged discussion for all meetings**, and I will show you the same respect by being well-prepared, too.

Please ask me for clarification on any assignment instructions, criteria for evaluation, or course policies at any time during the semester.