

**CRW 3310: Advanced Poetry Writing**

**Fall 2018 Syllabus**

Professor Ange Mlinko

amlinko@ufl.edu Turlington 4211E

Office hours: Before class on Tuesdays (3-4 pm) or by appointment

**Required texts:** *Rhyme's Reason* by John Hollander; *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry Vol. 2*

Poetry is an art that builds on itself. Poetry is a demanding art. Only by accepting the formal demands of the art might we make lasting contributions to it. The poets who come before us set the terms; we fulfill them by exceeding them.

This is an advanced poetry workshop. Poems will be judged on their creativity with the given prompt, which will always have some connection to the week's reading of established 20th-century masters. You will also memorize a poem from the anthology by Thanksgiving (for recitation in class). At the end of the semester, you will turn in a portfolio of the best 5 poems written for this class and a 1500-word essay on a poet (and one of their poems) you discovered **in the textbook**.

Rules for workshop:

- 1) You must bring your book and materials to class each week.
- 2) Attendance is required, and lateness will be penalized. If you miss more than two classes, your grade will depreciate by half a letter grade for each subsequent absence. (If you are chronically late, 3 latenesses will count as one absence.) Do not bring me doctors' notes unless there are multiple absences due to an ongoing illness. It is assumed that the two absences that you are allowed are only used as sick days.
- 3) I do not accept late work. Assignments must be submitted to Canvas by the correct time on the day assigned, in 10- or 12-point Times Roman font, single-spaced, with your name **on the document AND in the document file name**. Please bring a paper copy to class to turn in to me.
- 4) All submissions to workshop must be proofread, with correct grammar, usage, and spelling. (A good dictionary and style manual is essential—often available through the library databases.)

Your final grade will consist of 75% presence and participation, 25% final portfolio.

As will only be given to portfolios (25%) that show imaginative flair in choice of subject matter or style.

**There will be no phones in the classroom.**

## Schedule

Date	Assignment Due
Aug. 28	Introduction. Homework: read <i>Rhyme's Reason</i> and <b>write a villanelle</b> .
Sept. 4	Quiz on <i>Rhyme's Reason</i> (entire book). Workshop on villanelles. Homework: page through the Norton's anthology and <b>write a 14-line cento</b> , collaging other poets' lines using only poems from the anthology. All the lines have to be the same syllable length: either 8 or 10 syllables. Choose only one line length. No rhyming.
Sept. 11	Workshop on 14-line centos. Homework: View Lannan Foundation interview and reading featuring Seamus Heaney. Read his 5 poems "Digging," "The Tollund Man," "Bog Queen," "The Grauballe Man," and "Punishment" in the anthology, and <b>write a letter-poem to the poet 14-20 lines long, using a basic pentameter line</b> . (To think about: What historical background are you drawing from when writing your poems? What cultural issues are you in dialogue with?) Take notes on the Heaney videos to turn in to me.
Sept. 18	Workshop on letter-poems. Homework: Read Paul Muldoon's "Why Brownlee Left" and "The Grand Conversation." <b>Write either a short (approx. 16 lines) mystery poem or a longer (approx.20-25 lines) dialog poem between two speakers</b> .
Sept. 25	Workshop Muldoon-inspired poems. Homework: Read Amy Clampitt's "Beethoven, Opus 111" and "Syrinx." <b>Write a poem that describes sound or music using a vocabulary that stretches beyond normal conversational lexicons (15-25 lines)</b> .
Oct. 2	Workshop Clampitt-inspired poems. Homework: read Derek Walcott's "The Fortunate Traveller" and <b>write a 25-line travelogue</b> .
Oct. 9	Workshop Walcott-inspired poems. Homework: <b>Write a one-sentence childhood memory in isometric lines</b> of 4 or 5 beats, 14 lines (sonnet). (Reading TBA)
Oct. 16	Workshop childhood poems. Homework: Read James Merrill's "b o d y" (p. 320) and <b>write a poem where the letters of a single word are treated as sculptures or figures</b> , the word itself becoming dramatized in its sounds and shapes. (Ask yourself: what do letters look like they're doing, or where they come from?) (14 lines) Additional poems TBA.
Oct. 23	Workshop Merrill-inspired poems. Homework: Read Sylvia Plath's "Morning Song" and <b>write your own poem using those same end-words</b> . Separate reading TBA.
Oct. 30	Workshop Plath-inspired poems. Homework: Read Derek Mahon's "A Disused Shed in Co. Wexford," "An Bonnan Bui" and "A Swim in Co. Wicklow." <b>Write a 20-line poem with slant rhyme, incorporating different species of birds</b> as a feature of the poem's music.
Nov. 6	Workshop bird poems. Discussion of revision process.
Nov. 13	Revision workshop.
Nov. 20	Memorization recitations.
Nov. 27	Revision workshop.

Dec. 4	Turn in portfolio.
--------	--------------------

### **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/>.