

CRW 4906 - Section 12531  
Senior Advanced Poetry Workshop  
Tuesday Period 9-11 (4:05-7:05)

Professor Ange Mlinko  
Office hours by appointment on Zoom, but also between 3-3:45 pm on Tuesdays  
Emergency email: [amlinko@ufl.edu](mailto:amlinko@ufl.edu) (otherwise use Canvas email for greater privacy and security)

***“Write something for me,” Robert Frost implored a friend. “Give it a pain, a laugh, a thrill.”***

In this workshop, we will learn to read as well as write poems. We will investigate the various criteria of a good poem — formal structures, the command of tone, the choices that dictate subject matter and theme — but also the idiosyncrasies that set individual artists apart. We will follow Frost’s dictum: each poem must contain a pain, a laugh, a thrill. That will be an ongoing prompt, in addition to which I will come up with other prompts for you based on our readings.

This is, on the one hand, a rather simple and focused class. But it isn’t easy to write a good poem every week. You will have to devise ways of tapping your creativity: day journals or dream journals, formal experiments, taking dictation from people around you and manipulating text—everything is fair game. The point is to avoid cliché and never phone it in. The point is to be true to life and emotion while creating a performance in language. You should hold yourself and your classmates to high standards.

**You will be responsible for writing a poem a week, and posting it to Canvas by Saturday at midnight. By Sunday morning, you should be able to download and read your fellow classmates’ poems (only those in the designated group) for discussion on Tuesday.** Make sure to take notes for discussion; if you aren’t volunteering, I will call on you or ask you to turn in your notes to me.

- Please be present for workshop, which meets on Zoom synchronously. The class depends on your verbal participation; you are helping to create a network of peer critique. This is not a lecture course, so if you miss it, there is no make-up. (I will not be recording discussions.) If you’re late, you will get docked 5 points for every 5 minutes.)
- If you do not post a poem by the designated time, you miss your chance to be workshopped on Tuesday.

You will also be responsible for a **presentation** on the required text, *The New York School Poets*. You can choose to write on any of the poets designated (John Ashbery, Frank O’Hara, Kenneth Koch, James Schuyler, or Barbara Guest). You can examine a handful of their poems, or talk about their art in relation to their biographies or other artists (painters, musicians). You can even do a comparison between two of the poets. The topic is up to you.

Note that Barbara Guest was not included in the anthology, but many people consider her to have been part of their circle. This coterie of poets has been influential and important in advancing the art of poetry—pushing the envelope—in the American idiom. You’ll want to think about how each poet puts a sentence together, how they approach beginnings and endings, what vocabulary and tone they tend to deploy, and what they put in or leave out of a narrative.

In addition, we will read a contemporary poet whose work has been influenced by the New York School (Karen Solie). Occasionally, spontaneously, I may point you to other poems.

On the last day of class, you will turn in your portfolio of poems written during this semester.

**Required text:** *The New York School Poets; The Road in Is Not the Same Road Out* by Karen Solie

**Recommended texts (for your presentations):** *Forces of Imagination* by Barbara Guest, *The Last Avant-Garde* by David Lehman

**Online Resources:** <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/153058/online-learning-resources>; two important databases, [oed.com](http://oed.com) and the Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics, are available through the Smathers Libraries website.

### Class Schedule

Class	Topic	Reading
Sept 1	Introduction to course	Read Seamus Heaney's essay, "Feelings into Words" (PDF on Canvas) and intro to anthology.
Sept 8	Introductory workshop - everyone	
Sept 15	Workshop Group #1	James Schuyler
Sept 22	Workshop Group #2	
Sept 29	Workshop Group #1	Kenneth Koch
Oct 6	Workshop Group #2	
Oct 13	Workshop Group #1	Frank O'Hara
Oct 20	Workshop Group #2	
Oct 27	Workshop Group #1	John Ashbery
Nov 3	Workshop Group #2	
Nov 10	Workshop Group #1	Barbara Guest
Nov 17	Workshop Group #2	
Nov 24	Workshop Group #1	Karen Solie
Dec 1	Workshop Group #2	
Dec 8	Final portfolios due. Readings.	

### Assignments

Assignment	Word count	Points available
Prompts (x7)	At least 14 lines	25 (x 13)=325
Presentations	At least 20 minutes	50 (x2)=100
Critical paper	2000 words	75
Workshop & Participation	-	33.3 (x15)=500
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000</b>

#### 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 Rubric:

"A" A paper at this level is truly high quality. It demonstrates a clear understanding of critical concepts, creatively addresses the subject matter, and exceeds the expectations of critical analysis. A paper with this grade will be free of grammatical errors.

"B" A paper with this grade has met the standards of the assignment at a high quality level. This assignment may need revision but is organized in a logical way and avoids fallacies or mistakes in critical analysis. A paper with this grade may contain grammatical errors but will be readable.

"C" A paper that earns a "C" has done everything that was required, but no more. This assignment may require significant revision to more thoroughly examine critical elements, or it may need reorganization. A paper with this grade will generally contain a few grammatical errors but will still be readable.

"D" This paper does not adequately fulfill the assignment to a satisfactory degree. One portion of an assignment may not have been touched upon or there may be a misused critical element. Papers with this grade tend to be disorganized and contain many grammatical errors.

#### UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Part of our class sessions (if I lecture) may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure

to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded.

If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

(I will not be recording our group discussions, which can have an inhibiting effect on our freedom to converse and share personal opinions and experiences.)

Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code.](#) Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.