

CRW 6331 Verse Writing
Fall 2022
Professor Ange Mlinko

Monday, Period 9-11 (4:05-7:05). Office hours are Mondays and Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30, or on Zoom by appointment.

Required texts: *Rhyme's Rooms: The Architecture of Poetry* by Brad Leithauser, *Landing Light* by Don Paterson, *The Sea and the Mirror* by W.H. Auden, and *Observations* by Marianne Moore

Recommended Texts: *Rhyme's Reason* by John Hollander, *The Craft of Poetry* by Lucy Newlyn, *The Oxford Book of English Verse*, *The Oxford Book of American Verse*, *Norton's Modern Poetry*

Recommended library resources: *The Oxford English Dictionary*, *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (available through online databases through Smathers website)

Recommended web resources: poetryfoundation.org Poem Guides and [Glossary of Poetic Terms](#).

"Technique is the proof of your seriousness."—Jim Harrison

Welcome to the graduate poetry workshop. It is divided roughly into three parts: through September, we will do technical exercises; in October, we will write and workshop poems written from prompts; in late November, we will focus on revisions. All original work must conform to prompts, which are closely related to the readings I have assigned.

You will also write a paper on any poem or poet covered in this course (1500 words, structured as a close-reading, more like a review essay than an academic paper), due on the last day of class.

The goals of this workshop are, basically, to make you keenly sensitive to all the linguistic choices available to you, and to help you to write poems that are simultaneously about two things, or poems that look in two directions at once (as Seamus Heaney says in his craft essay, "Feeling into Words").

Two damning criticisms:

"This is boring; who cares?"
"This is far-fetched; I don't believe it."

With respect for one another as writers and apprentices, we will keep these criticisms in mind as limit cases.

Non-negotiable rules:

- 1) All poems must be titled.
- 2) All poems must obey rules of grammar and punctuation unless there's a very good formal reason to break them.
- 3) Poems must be polished; no first drafts.

Presence and participation are essential to the success of the workshop; more than two absences will result in a half-point deduction for every subsequent absence. Ignoring prompts likewise. Your final grade will be an average of presence, prompts, and paper (1/3 each).

Date	Reading	Prompt
August 29	Introduction	
Sept 5	No class—holiday	

Date	Reading	Prompt
Sept 12	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 1-53 Don Paterson: Landing Light, pp. 1-16	Workshop: 20-line poem in quatrains. Quatrains must be self-contained (must end in period) and lines must be isometric, if not metrical, and <u>not</u> enjambed (ends of lines must pause at a natural place in the phrase, with punctuation). No rhyme.
Sept 19	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 54-80 Landing Light pp. 17-33	Workshop: 1 sonnet, in one running grammatical sentence. May be in any meter, but pick one and stick to it.
Sept 26	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 81-124 Landing Light: pp. 34-48	Workshop: Write a poem alternating tetrameter and pentameter stanzas, at least two stanzas each. Highlight the contrast with some contrast in the subject matter, or voice.
Oct 3	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 125-153 Landing Light: finish book (pp. 49-86)	Presentation: pick a poem from the Paterson reading and present a close reading to the class Workshop: A sonnet with slant rhymes. No full rhymes. Must tell a sea tale (using a myth or fairy tale).
Oct 10	No class - Professional duties	
Oct 17	Discussion: Shakespeare's The Tempest The Sea and the Mirror, Preface & Ch. 1	Workshop: Write a dramatic monologue in the voice of a famous real or fictional personage; make the formal choices reflect a character trait.
Oct 24	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 154-191 The Sea and the Mirror, Ch. 2	Workshop: Same as last week, but make totally different choices.
Oct 31	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 192-216 The Sea and the Mirror, Ch. 3 and Postscript	Workshop: Write a free translation à la Paterson's Rilke or Dante
Nov 7	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 217-243 Marianne Moore's Observations: pp. 1-28	Workshop: Write a poem on a closely-observed subject in nature, in syllabics, 20-25 lines.
Nov 14	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 244-276 Marianne Moore's Observations: pp. 29-46	Workshop: Write your own poem about a) an octopus or b) marriage, using Moore's poems on these subjects as a starting point.
Nov 21	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 277-307 Marianne Moore's Observations: pp. 47-64	Revisions
Nov 28	Discussion: Rhyme's Rooms pp. 308-end Marianne Moore's Observations: pp. 65-end	Revisions
Dec 5	Readings; final paper due.	

Evaluation of Grades

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Percentage of Final Grade</i>
Attendance	333 pts./13	33.3%
Poems	333 pts./10	33.3%
Final Paper	333 pts.	33.3%
		100%

Boilerplate:

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect 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.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

University Honesty Policy

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. 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 or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

Library Support, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints Campus

On-Line Students Complaints