

CRW 2300, Spring 2015
Powell Hall Classroom
Florida Museum of Natural History

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This Poetry Workshop will be held in the Powell Hall classroom in the Florida Museum of Natural History. Each week, from 20-25 minutes will be spent in wandering the exhibits and studying the objects on display. Other than that, normal workshop procedure will obtain. Each student will be required to lead one discussion of an assigned poem, and everyone will write one poem per week. In the beginning, poems will be written about objects in the displays—later on in the semester, other options will be explored.

It is far, far easier to write a good poem about a bug than it is to write about the “big” subjects, i.e. love, suicide, war, death. We will begin by reading exemplary poems and discussing them in class, then students will be assigned to imitate one of the models. Students will be assigned one poem per week. Each week, a student or a team will lead the class discussion of one of the model poems.

Grades will be based on five things:

- 1) Class participation—it is helpful to both you and your colleagues if you let us all know what you think about the model poems and each other’s work. The criticism directed at your fellow students should be helpful and positive, not destructive. This does not mean that you cannot explain your reasons for not liking a phrase or a line.
- 2) Quality of the work submitted—at the end of the semester, I will ask you to submit a folder with your best work in it. This will consist of at least six poems (you may submit more if you wish) that you have revised according to class and professor comments.
- 3) Presentation—you will be expected to lead class discussion on one of the model poems. Please bring copies of the outline of your discussion to class on your presentation day.
- 4) Vocabulary Quizzes—there will be a vocab quiz following every assignment, based on words in the poems assigned. Look them up—you must know what the words in a poem mean if you hope to understand the poem.
- 5) Attendance and Punctuality—you are allowed one penalty-free absence. Any further absences will require a doctor’s written excuse, or each absence will lower your grade by a full letter. If you come late to class more than three times, your grade will be lowered.

Required Texts:

"Decomposition: An Anthology of Fungi-Inspired Poems," eds. Renee Roehl & Kelly Chadwick

"From the Fishhouse: An Anthology of Poems that Sing, Rhyme, Resound, Syncopate, Alliterate, and Just Plain Sound Great" eds. Camille Dungy, Matt O'Donnell, & Jeffrey Thomson.

Jan 7	Introduction and Sign-up		
Jan 14	From the Fishhouse,	Chapter I	_____
Jan 21	FTF	Chapter III	_____
Jan 28	FTF	Chapter IV	_____
Feb 4	Decomposition	"Veil"	_____
Feb 11	FTF	Chapter V	_____
Feb 18	FTF	Chapter VI	_____
Feb 25	FTF	Chapter VIII	_____
Mar 4	Spring Break		
Mar 11	Decomposition	"Fruiting Body"	_____
Mar 18	FTF	Chapter IX	_____
Mar 25	Les Murray		_____
Apr 1	Sylvia Plath		_____
Apr 8	No class		
Apr 15	Decomposition	"Ruin/Collapse"	_____ P
Apr 22	No Class	Folders Due	