

ENGL 294A Introduction to Writing Poetry

3 credits, 16 weeks, 3 hours lecture

This course will be conducted as a seminar, using contemporary poems and the students' own work for study and discussion. Students will be expected to read widely, write extensively, and complete a portfolio of finished poetry by the end of the term. In addition, students will keep a writing journal and will complete specific in-class and out-of-class assignments exploring poetic form, style, and technique.

Prerequisite: 6 credits of junior English

Instructor

Ryan J Cox
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Office Hours

Monday 11:00 – 12:00
Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00
Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00

Hours of Instruction

Tuesday 1:00 – 2:50
Friday 3:00 – 3:50

Required Resources

The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes, Langston Hughes, ISBN 978-0679764083
The Dream Songs, John Berryman, ISBN 978-0374530662
RUSH: What fuckan theory, bill bissett, ISBN 978-1927040416
Eunoia, Christian Bok, Upgraded ed, ISBN 978-1552452257
No Language is Neutral, Dionne Brand, ISBN 978-0771016462
The Alphabet Game, bpNichol, ISBN 978-1552451878

Course Outcomes

The successful student will be able to:

1. Understand poetic styles and techniques
2. Effectively critique and analyze poetry
3. Write poetry

Evaluation

Clearly outline what students must do in order to pass or complete the course.

Reading	10%
Workshop	10%
Writing Journal	15%

In-Class Writing	25%
Portfolio	40%
Total	100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

Portfolio

The portfolio will consist of 15 pages of your best poems, edited and polished. These poems are to be in “publishable” condition when they appear in the portfolio. They will be taken from either workshop materials or in-class writing, and demonstrate your ability to edit and refine, as well as your voice and your ability to produce good poetry. The portfolio must also include a short (2 page) statement of poetics in which you outline your approach to poetry and how you arrived at your particular style/voice. The statement of poetics should be viewed as your theory of poetics.

In-class writing

Throughout the course there will be a series of in-class writing activities, roughly 1 per week. These will be directed poetry exercises intended to develop specific approaches and techniques as well as voice. Activities will be linked to the reading/topic of a given week. Each piece will be marked out of five in accordance to the criteria set out with each assignment. There will not be an opportunity to make up missed in-class writing; for this reason it is strongly recommended that you attend every class.

Presentation

Towards the end of the course students will be participating in a poetry reading. Their performance will be graded in accordance to style, delivery, selection and other criteria discussed in the class prior to the performance.

Writing Journal

In the writing journal, students will keep their notes on the workshop materials read each week as well as responses to the readings. They are also expected to use the journal to develop ideas for possible poems or towards a statement of poetics. See examples on moodle for reference.

Workshop

A considerable amount of class time will be devoted to workshopping student writing. This requires that students submit roughly 5 pages of material (ie original poems) for workshop each week by noon on Friday. Students are not simply required to submit work for consideration, they are also expected to: read and critique the material submitted for workshop, offer constructive feedback to the other poets in the workshop, and actively participate in the critical discourse of the workshop. Please refer to the guidelines for workshop conduct on moodle for information on the workshop process itself.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor Minimum Pass	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments	Notes
Sept 1-4	Introduction			No Class Sept 1
Sept 7-11	Poetics	Olson. "Projective Verse"		No Class Sept 7, (Labour Day)
Sept 14-18	Form: the jazz/blues lyric	Hughes, <i>Collected</i>		
Sept 21-25	Form: Lipograms and Process	Bok, <i>Eunoia</i>		
Sept 28-Oct 2	Image	Flint and Pound, Imagist Manifestos, Selected imagist poems		
Oct 5-9	Image	Berryman, <i>The Dream Songs</i>		
Oct 12-16	Image:Ekphrasis	Moodle Selections (poems, art gallery, and music)	Writing Journal Oct 16	Oct 12 College Closed (Thanksgiving)
Oct 19-23	Language	Brand, <i>No Language is Neutral</i>		
Oct 26-30	Language	Nichol, <i>The Alphabet Game</i>		
Nov 2-6	Language	bissett, <i>rush: what fuckan theory</i>		
Nov 9-13	Performance 1	Moodle selections on Sound and Performance		Nov 11 College Closed (Remembrance Day), No Class Nov 12-13 (Reading Days)

Nov 16-20	Performance 2		Writing Journal Nov 17	
Nov 23-27	Statements and Manifestos	Breton, "Surrealist Manifesto;" Tzara, "Dada Manifesto," De Andrade, "Cannibalist Manifesto," Moure, "The Acts," Nichol, "The "pata of letter feet." Cox, Example		Nov 25, Last Day to Withdraw
Nov 30-Dec4	Reading/writing		Reading (time/location TBA)	Dec 4, Last Day of Classes
Dec7-11	Final Exams		Portfolio due Dec 11 @ noon	

Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College Credit Calendar.

Performance Requirements**Late Policy**

Late work will be accepted, however, it will be penalized at a rate of 10%/Business Day. If it is turned in a week or more late, it will not be accepted. It should also be noted that late material will receive no feedback from the instructor. It is your responsibility to meet the due dates for the assigned material.

Standards for Written Assignments

Learning how to follow house style sheets is one of the most important skills a writer can develop. To aid you in your quest to learn these skills I have provided a document entitled "Standards for Written Assignments" on Moodle. If your paper does not conform to these standards, expect to lose marks.

All work must be TYPED, double spaced, and have proper MLA documentation (unless instructed otherwise). Do NOT submit work to me by e-mail.. Hard copies are not only preferred, they are required. Be sure to keep a copy of any essay that you hand in.

Sensitivity, Respect, and Subject Matter

Some of the material we will be covering this semester is of a charged nature—whether in terms of form, content or politics. As critics, we cannot shy away from this material; however, we must understand that this material may generate a wide variety of reactions and opinions among our colleagues in the classroom. Thus, it is imperative that we remain aware of, and sympathetic to the reactions and opinions of our classmates. Respect and sensitivity will produce a stronger learning environment and generate better, more nuanced discussions.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College 2015-2016 credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

Authorization

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

Ryan Cox, Instructor

Louis Dingley, Chair

Date Authorized

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:

Instructor

Registrar's Office