



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION
COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2021

EN2940 (A3): Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anna Lapointe **PHONE:** 780-539-2992
OFFICE: C420 **E-MAIL:** alapointe@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

WINTER 2021 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: At an introductory level, this course emphasizes the principles and practices of writing publishable poetry. Students are encouraged to write in a variety of forms aimed at traditional publication or other markets.

PREREQUISITE: 6 credits of junior English. Students without the prerequisite may not receive credit for this course

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within*. (Shambhala, 2005)
- Hirshfield, Jane. *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry*. (HarperPerennial, 1997)

All other readings are posted to MyClass. Students are responsible for ensuring that they can access these files.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and discussion

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will use personal experiences and reflections on memory to produce writing that can be used as a foundation for poetry, prepare samples of their work for group critique, offer constructive criticism on the work of others, and revise their own work in response to both instructor and group feedback.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, students will be able to

- Articulate the nature of key poetic forms
- Articulate connections between their own work and that of at least one contemporary poet
- Produce written work reflecting contemporary poetic practices
- Engage in detailed revision of their poetic writing

TRANSFERABILITY:

University of Alberta: WRITE 294 (3) or AUENG 215 (3)
Concordia University of Edmonton: WRI 392 (3)
Athabasca University: ENGL 3xx (3)
University of Calgary: ENG 364

University of Lethbridge, The: ENGL 3800 (3)
 MacEwan University: EN 214 (3)
 Mount Royal University: ENGL 1117 (3)

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Weekly assignments | 35% |
| “Muse poet” presentation | 15% |
| Participation | 15% |
| Final portfolio | 30% |
| Self-Evaluation | 5% |

Grading for this class differs from a standard English course. There is no single standard which students are expected to meet. Students enrolled in this course differ in experience and skill levels; those will not be the primary source of evaluation. Instead, students will be evaluated on the following criteria: contribution to class workshops, completion of course work, incorporation of critiques into edited work, and overall improvement. These criteria are intended to emphasize commitment to the process of writing and improvement over the course of the term.

GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

| Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines | Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| A+ | 4.0 | 90-100 | C+ | 2.3 | 67-69 |
| A | 4.0 | 85-89 | C | 2.0 | 63-66 |
| A- | 3.7 | 80-84 | C- | 1.7 | 60-62 |
| B+ | 3.3 | 77-79 | D+ | 1.3 | 55-59 |
| B | 3.0 | 73-76 | D | 1.0 | 50-54 |
| B- | 2.7 | 70-72 | F | 0.0 | 00-49 |

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Within this course, plagiarism includes submitting another person's work as your own and submitting work done for a previous course as new work for this one. Literature has slightly different expectations for plagiarism; we will discuss these standards, and explore how to establish artistic integrity in our own work.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Students are expected to have all readings completed before coming to class. The class participation element is based on active discussion, which is only possible when you have a strong grasp of the reading material.

Jan 6 – Introduction to the class
Jan 11 – introduction to poetry and poetics
Jan 13 – Goldberg pp. 1-14
Jan 18 – Goldberg pp. 15-24
Jan 20 – Hirshfield “Poetry and the Mind of Concentration”
Jan 25 – Goldberg pp. 25-38
Jan 27 – TBA
Feb 1 – Goldberg pp. 39-59
Feb 3 – Hirshfield “The Question of Originality”
Feb 8 – Goldberg pp. 60-78
Feb 10 – Goldberg pp. 79-97
Feb 15-19: Reading week (no classes)
Feb 22 – Hirshfield “The World is Large and Full of Noises”
Feb 24 – Goldberg 98-113
Mar 1 – Hirshfield “The Myriad Leaves of Words”
Mar 3 – Hirshfield “Poetry and the Mind of Indirection”
Mar 8 – TBA
Mar 10 – Goldberg pp. 114-139
Mar 15 – Goldberg pp. 140-155
Mar 17 – Hirshfield “Two Secrets”
Mar 22 – Goldberg pp. 156-168
Mar 24 – Goldberg pp. 169-180
Mar 29 – Hirshfield “Facing the Lion”
Mar 31 – Hirshfield “Poetry as a Vessel of Remembrance”
Apr 5 – Hirshfield “Writing and the Threshold Life”
Apr 7 – TBA
Apr 12 – wrap up

Your final portfolio and self-evaluation will be due on the exam date (TBA).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- **Attendance:** Even more than a regular English class, this course requires your presence. Although we are remote, this course needs your engagement in real time. Showing up is fundamental. **Each unexcused absence will result in a 6% deduction from your attendance & participation grade.**

- If your absence is for a legitimate reason (internet disruption, illness, family crisis), **let the instructor know by e-mail**. In your e-mail, please indicate your course number and section. Please send a new e-mail for each class missed for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically “roll over” for future missed dates.
- **Participation:** Simply showing up is not sufficient. You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up. So ask!
 - In order to participate effectively, you should have the day's reading completed before class begins. Ideally, you will also have made notes on the material and brought them along, so that you're never left saying, “I got nothin’,” when asked to comment.
 - The goal of this class is to create a safe environment in which we examine both published texts and our own work. Discomfort can be part of the learning process. However, if the discomfort starts to turn to distress, please feel you can withdraw from the activity.
- **Missed Material:** Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows are posted to Brightspace, and Zoom lectures are posted after their conclusion. If, **after** you have gone through these materials, you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to clarify.
- **Submission of Weekly Assignments:** Students will be given writing prompts each Wednesday, for submission the following Wednesday, no later than 4:00pm. These are intended to keep students writing new work and thinking about the writing process. Students must submit **at least seven** weekly assignments to receive full credit.
 - Assignments must be submitted to the Brightspace dropbox. Assignments must be in pdf format. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted. If the dropbox for some reason will not give you access, e-mail your completed assignment to the instructor to prove that you have completed it, then submit on Brightspace when the issue has been resolved.
 - Late submissions of weekly assignments will not be accepted.
- **“Muse Poet” Presentation:** Once in this course, each student will give a presentation on their “muse poet,” a poet whose work informs their own. In order for the class to be able to follow this presentation, the student must provide a reading list of 3-4 poems for that poet. That list (and copies of the poems, either as .pdf files or URL links) must be provided to the instructor no later than 4pm on the Friday preceding the presentation.
 - If you do not submit your poetry sample on time, your presentation will be subject to a grade deduction. If you do not submit a poetry sample at all, your presentation will be subject to a more significant deduction.
 - If you are absent without excuse from the class in which you are scheduled for critique, you may receive a grade of 0% for that element of the course. Mercy on this point is entirely at the instructor's discretion.

- **“Office” Hours:** My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline. Because the course is being offered remotely, I will not be physically in my campus office. Rather, I will be available via Zoom from the course page to meet one-on-one with students.
 - You don’t need an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I meet with students in the order that they show up.
 - This is your time, as much as class is. Please don’t feel you’re imposing.
 - Office hours cancelled if the instructor is sick. But I’ll post an announcement to that effect, and re-schedule when I’m better.
 - If you make an appointment to meet with me (over Zoom) outside of regular office hours, please actually attend that meeting, or notify me that you won’t be able to make it, so I’m not left humming to myself on the Internet.

- **Preferred Names & Pronouns:** At the course’s outset, my list of students’ names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and used your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments, as well as on your Zoom. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.)
 - If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns.
 - All students are expected to respect their classmates’ preferred names and pronouns.

- **Children, Animals, & Zoom Etiquette:** Some of you may be parenting as you take this class. Please let me know, so that I can make a note of it. (Children create their own complications, and I will create flexibility for parents as needed.)
 - While in class, if you’re not speaking, please mute your microphone so that ambient noise (human, animal, etc.) doesn’t disrupt the class.
 - If your children are in the room with you during class, that’s fine, though you should be aware that the course will deal with adult language and topics.
 - If your pets appear on Zoom, your instructor would like to see and admire them.
 - Please wear clothes while on Zoom.

- **Crisis Management:** I’m not a monster, but I’m not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won’t automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up in the course. You are human, and entropy affects us all: crises happen. I will happily work with you to ensure they don’t derail your academic career.

Important Note: How you do in the class has no effect on how much I like and respect you. If you submit an assignment late, I will not be ashamed of you or look on you with disgust. If your work is imperfect, it’s a sign that there are things you need to learn/I need to help you with; it is not a sign that you are a bad, lazy, or unworthy person.