

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2024

EN2940(A2): Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Anna Lapointe	PHONE:	780-539-2992
OFFICE:	C420	E-MAIL:	alapointe@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Mondays 1:30-2:30 or by appointment (email for appointment)		

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 and other markets.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Six credits of junior English.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Hoagland, Tony, with Kay Cosgrove. *The Art of Voice: Poetic Principles and Practice*. (Norton)
- Oliver, Mary. *A Poetry Handbook: A Prose Guide to Understanding and Writing Poetry*. (Harcourt)

DELIVERY MODE: On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At 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:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca/>.

**** 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	10%
Notebook maintenance and development	10%
Participation and engagement	15%
Final portfolio(stands in place of final exam)	30%

Grading for this class differs from that in a standard senior English course. There is no single standard against which all students are expected to reach, as students enrolled in this course vary widely in experience and skill level. Instead, students are evaluated on these criteria: completion of course work, engagement with assignments and concepts, incorporation of critiques and feedback into revised work, and overall improvement in the course of the term.

GRADING CRITERIA

Written assignments in this course will receive alphabetical (letter) grades. Final grades for the course will also be given with letter grades. For values, consult the chart below.

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	95.00-100.00	C+	2.3	67.00-69.99
A	4.0	85.00-94.99	C	2.0	63.00-66.99
A-	3.7	80.00-84.99	C-	1.7	60.00-62.99
B+	3.3	77.00-79.99	D+	1.3	55.00-59.99
B	3.0	73.00-76.99	D	1.0	50.00-54.99
B-	2.7	70.00-72.99	F	0.0	00.00-49.99

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE: TBA. A detailed schedule of readings will be posted to the myClass page. That schedule may be subject to change (at which point an updated schedule will be posted).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Attendance:** Even more than a regular English class, this course requires your presence. Each unexcused absence will result in a major deduction from your attendance & participation grade.

- If your absence is for a legitimate reason (illness or 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.
 - In order to improve your writing and to develop respect for writing as a craft, it's imperative that you do your own writing, without using Chat-GPT or any other AI or language bot. **Assignments found to have been created using AI/bots will not be graded.** AI-written assignments may be subject to further penalties under the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy. Additional penalties may also be applied to your participation grade.

- **Missed Material:** Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Notes and updates should be obtained from classmates, not the instructor.

- **Submission of Weekly Assignments:** Students will be given writing prompts each Thursday, for submission the following Thursday, no later than 4:00pm. These prompts 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 via myClass. Assignments must be in pdf format. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted. If myClass won't accept your submission, it's probably because there's a problem with your file (wrong file type) – check that before contacting the instructor.
 - Late submissions of weekly assignments are not 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.
- **Notebook Maintenance and Development:** Students are expected to maintain a physical poet's notebook, which will be the initial forum in which they draft much of their work, as well as taking notes, making observations, and amassing materials. This notebook will be submitted for review at least once during the term, and must be submitted along with the final portfolio at the end of term. We will discuss in detail how to maintain a notebook as part of poetic practice in this course.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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

Additional Information:

- **Office Hours:** My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline.
 - 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 are 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 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.
- **Parents and Caregivers:** If you are a parent or caregiver (not a paid sitter), please let me know. I'm aware that childcare comes with responsibilities which supersede the requirements of university classes. (Keeping human beings alive is a major responsibility!) I am happy to work with you to help you keep up in the course/manage your course requirements.
- **Children in the Classroom:** If your childcare fails, you are welcome to bring your child/children to class, provided that they can be reasonably quiet. (Providing them with entertainment will help with this. If their entertainment is an electronic device, please provide them with headphones or

turn off sound generation.) Exclusively breast-fed infants are welcome in class as often as necessary.

- **Pre-Assessments:** Students often request that I “look over” an assignment and offer feedback before the assignment is due. I regret that I cannot do this, simply because of the time commitment involved, and the number of students I teach.
 - However, I am always pleased to review your thesis statement, and even to review several drafts of it. Please send your thesis statement for feedback by email, pasted into the body of the e-mail.
 - Thesis statements are not reviewed in person, because I need time to consider and give you the best feedback I can. E-mail them to me for best results!

- **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 use 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.

- **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.