GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 05/18/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 06/15/2021

ENGLISH 143 – POETRY WRITING IV

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

ENGL 143 Poetry Writing IV 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

A “C” grade or higher or “Pass” in English 142 or equivalent.

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

The final of a four-course sequence, this mastery-level class is designed to strengthen student expertise in the study, analysis, and application of the tools, techniques, and forms of poetry used by established and contemporary poets. By crafting and submitting original poems, students use the writers’ workshop to refine their skills as critics and poets, as well as explore avenues for publication. Students have opportunities for publication, public readings of their own work, and special projects.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Analyze, both orally and in writing, the tools, techniques, and forms used by professional practitioners of poetry, including genre, structure, figurative language, imagery, sound, diction, allusion, theme, and ideology;
2. Identify, innovate, and employ various techniques of invention;
3. Compose poems utilizing the tools, techniques, and forms of, both, traditional and experimental poetry;
4. Evaluate benefits of criticism of their own work and demonstrate mastery in multiple revisions;
5. Demonstrate leadership and mastery to critique other students’ poetry, both orally and in writing;
6. Articulate and apply aesthetic criteria as a practitioner of poetry;
7. Refine skills in performatively reading their own poems;
8. Demonstrate mastery in grammar, punctuation, and mechanics used in the writing of poetry;
9. Pursue publication of their writing online or in print.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

1. Access to a computer, the Internet, and word processing with capacity to save/export as Portable .. Document Format (.pdf) and/or Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx).
2. Collegiate dictionary and thesaurus.
3. Writing materials and copies of poems for workshop.

7. Course Content

1. Invention, composition, and revision of poetry at a mastery level, amounting to approximately 8-10 poems per semester.
2. Traditional and experimental tools, techniques, and forms of poetry, including genre, structure, figurative language, imagery, sound, diction, allusion, and theme, and ideology.
3. Sophisticated written and oral critical commentary of peers’ original poems.
4. A diversity of poems in traditional and free verse forms by emerging, established, and/or contemporary writers, in print and online chapbooks, books, anthologies, literary magazines, and journals.
5. In-class writing exercises.
6. Critical essays on poetics.
7. Strategies for performatively reading poetry.
8. Practice in ordering, assembling, and editing a publishable poetry chapbook or book.
9. Research and activities pertaining to publishing.
10. Special writing projects befitting mastery-level students.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture by instructor, visiting writers, and media.
2. Writers’ workshop: Students sit in a circle. Selected writer reads original poem aloud and discussion follows. A student may be designated by the instructor to commence discussion for each poem. Generally, selected writers do not speak until poem has been discussed by peers and addressed by instructor. Once poem is workshopped, the writer has the opportunity to respond and ask questions. Lastly, poem with written commentary is returned to its author. Cycle repeats with next selected writer.
3. Discussion and writing exercises based on tools, techniques, and traditional and experimental forms of poetry.
4. Discussion and reading aloud of poems by emerging,traditional, and contemporary poets.
5. Individual conferences.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Student writing and revision of poems.
2. Participation in writers’ workshop, both orally and in writing.
3. Participation in class discussion and writing exercises.
4. Completion of a poetry chapbook as a final project.
5. Performative reading of original poems composed for the class, presented as part of a final examination.
6. Performance of memorized poem.
7. Special writing projects contracted with student.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Reading and studying poems and essays.
2. Composing and revising poems.
3. Reading and writing critiques of classmates’ poems.
4. Researching material for poems.
5. Craft and imitation exercises.
6. Attending and/or participating in campus and community literary events and readings.
7. Submitting poems to the Grossmont College literary journal, *Acorn Review*, as well as researching online and print publication opportunities.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative Text(s):
2. *Acorn Review* *Literary Journa*l. Grossmont College, 2018-19.
3. Burt, Steph. *The Poem Is You: 60 Contemporary American Poems and How to Read Them*. Belknap Press, 2020.
4. Hugo, Richard. *The Triggering Town: Lectures and Essays on Poetry and Writing.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010.
5. Kaminsky, Ilya and Susan Harris. *The Ecco Anthology of International Poetry*. Ecco Press, 2010.
6. Lehman David and Paisley Rekdal, eds. *Best American Poetry 2020*. Scribner, 2020.
7. Meyer, Michael. *Poetry: An Introduction*. Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2012.
8. Salerno, Christopher and Kelsea Habecker. *How to Write Poetry: A Guided Journal.* Rockridge Press, 2020.
9. Turco, Lewis. *The Book of Forms: A Handbook of Poetics*. 5th ed. University Press of New England, 2020.
10. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
11. Addonizio, Kim. *Ordinary Genius: A Guide for the Poet Within*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2009.
12. Brewer, Robert Lee. 2013 Poet’s Market. New York: Writer’s Digest Books, 2012.
13. Bridges, Judy. *Shut up and Write!* Redbird Studios, 2011.
14. Clark, Kevin. *The Mind’s Eye: A Guide to Writing Poetry*. Pearson / Longman, 2007.
15. Green, Roland, et al. *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*. 4th ed. Princeton University Press, 2012.
16. Heidegger, Martin. *Poetry, Language, Thought.* Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2001
17. Kooser, Ted. *The Poetry Home Repair Manual: Practical Advice for Beginning Poets*. University of Nebraska Press, 2007.
18. Kowit, Steve. *In the Palm of Your Hand: A Poet’s Portable Workshop*. 2nd ed. Tilbury House Publishers, 2017.
19. Ramazani, Jahan, Richard Ellmann, and Robert O’Clair, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*. 3rd edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2003.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. At a mastery level, identify and employ elements of poetry and use specific details from memory, imagination, knowledge, and research to invent, draft, revise, and reflect upon poems in free verse, traditional, and experimental forms.
2. Use the writers’ workshop to evaluate their own poems as well as the poems of others (both orally and in writing) to demonstrate mastery as critics and writers of poetry.
3. At a mastery level, interpret, assess, and synthesize the content and form of poems by emerging, established, and contemporary poets.