

**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2014**  
**Department of English**

**ENGL 2901A, POETRY WORKSHOP**

Limited Enrolment: Submission of a portfolio is required. (See section below for details.)

Time: Tuesday 11:30 – 2:30

Location: A204LA (Please confirm with Carleton Central)

Instructor: Armand Garnet Ruffo

Office: 1918 Dunton Tower

Office Hours: TBA

Email: [armand\\_ruffo@carleton.ca](mailto:armand_ruffo@carleton.ca)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This workshop will focus primarily on the writing of poetry, including detailed discussion of the students' work, and, at the discretion of the instructor, the study of selected published poems.

The aim of this course is to provide students with a solid foundation and competency in the writing of poetry so that they may go on to publish professionally should they so choose.

This course will operate as both a writing workshop and a seminar in which students read and discuss their own poetry in the course of reading and studying the work of established poets. A schedule of writing exercises will be handed out the first day of class. These exercises will focus on the sources of poetry, 'where poems come from', and poetic technique. Each class will cover a different topic which is designed to hone the students' writing ability while expanding their range of subject matter. In addition, each student will complete one mini-seminar in which the students will critically analyze the work of an established poet. Although the primary focus of the course is on the writing of poetry, we will explore various forms and themes through the reading of established poets. This written work will serve as models for the students to be analyzed and considered in light of their own work.

Students enrolling in the class are required to participate actively and constructively in the workshop process. Students will type, photocopy and hand out their own poems each week, which will exhibit an understanding of poetic technique and form as discussed in class. They must also keep up with the course readings, comprising of the classes' own writing, as well as poems and poetics from the text. Each week the instructor will select work from various students for discussion, which will be distributed to the class. Students will be expected to provide constructive, practical criticism based on the poetic technique discussed in class and not on personal taste in commenting on the work.

## SUBMISSION OF PORTFOLIO

Applicants are asked to submit a portfolio that includes a brief biographical note, indicating the poets you enjoy reading and any other relevant information pertaining to your writing, and a brief statement on why you want to take this workshop. Applicants will also submit 10 poems (hardcopy) of varying lengths which indicate your talent for writing poetry. Due to limited space in the course, the portfolio will be examined to determine if the student is ready to take this course. Portfolios should be sent to Professor Armand Garnet Ruffo, Department of English, Carleton University, 1812 Duntton Tower, Ottawa, On, K1S 5B6. **The deadline for all portfolios is Friday, November 29, 2013.** Portfolios that arrive late will be considered only if there is space available in the class. Those accepted will be contacted in mid-December. (It is therefore advised to select an alternative course.) Please include a phone number or email address. For those who would like their portfolio returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE).

## EVALUATION

As there is no exam or tests for this course, students will be expected to complete the writing and reading assignments on time. These include writing in specified forms and demonstrating knowledge of poetic technique. Because of the workshop setting, it is essential that students contribute to class discussion in a respectful and constructive manner. Students will revise the poems submitted in class for their final portfolio. Grading will focus on: (1) the quantity and originality of the poetry completed in class, (2) the quality of the revisions for the final portfolio, (3) the quality of the contribution to the workshop process, including the completion of the reading assignments, (4) and regular attendance. Students who are continually absent without a medical certificate will automatically receive a failing grade.

**TEXT:** Clark, Kevin. *The Mind's Eye: A Guide to Writing Poetry*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2008.

## PLAGARISM:

See the statement on Instructional Offenses in the Undergraduate Calendar. There is no excuse for academic dishonesty. Students wishing assistance through the Paul Menton Centre, please call 520-6608.