

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Winter 2015

ENGL 3901A: Intermediate Poetry Workshop
Thursdays: 2:35pm- 5:25 pm
Location: 415 SP (Please confirm on Carleton Central)
Instructor: Mark Frutkin
Email mfrutkin@rogers.com

Limited Enrolment. Submission of a portfolio by November 30th is required.**

** Students interested in taking the course must submit a short portfolio: ten poems (no more than ten pages in total), double-spaced. Be sure to include your Carleton student ID number.

Email to: mfrutkin@rogers.com

Entry to the class will be based on the quality of the writing submitted. Students will be informed of acceptance in late November or early December.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As this is a poetry writing workshop, the main focus of this course will involve the analysis and evaluation by the professor and students of short works of poetry written by the students. Students will be expected to have a serious interest in the craft of writing and have a solid grasp of fundamentals. Analysis and evaluation of others' manuscripts will be almost as important as your own submitted work. All styles and approaches to poetry will be acceptable, the only criterion being the excellence of the actual writing itself.

Some classes will include in-class poetry writing exercises, discussions about writing and publishing, as well as analysis of excellent samples of poetry from some of the world's great authors.

A selected number of writers will submit a manuscript each week for others to take home and read and be prepared to workshop the following week. Each student will submit two or three original manuscripts, of 8-10 poems each, during the course.

Each student must photocopy sufficient copies of their own poems to hand out the week preceding their workshop. If you are scheduled to deliver a poetry selection and cannot, please give several days' notice. If your poems are to be discussed and you cannot appear, please give as much notice as possible.

Every submission must be typed, double spaced in ordinary typeface, and must be legible. Handwritten materials will not be accepted. No single spacing is allowed, as space is required for hand-written editorial comments. (Since no textbooks or other books will be required for the course, students will be expected to cover the cost of photocopying the required number of copies of their own poems.) Photocopying on both sides of a page, to save paper, will be acceptable.

EVALUATION:

The final course grade will be based on the following:

- 1) 45% - Quality and originality of the work submitted.
- 2) 45% - Quality of the editorial comments on the work of others – written, and oral (in-class) contributions to the overall evaluation process; as well as engagement with the in-class exercises and discussions concerning sample poems from the tradition.
- 3) 10% - Attendance - Missing more than three classes will result in a grade reduction, barring medical situations (a doctor's note is required). Arriving late to the class on a consistent basis will affect the final grade.

There will be no final exam in this course.

Please Note: You must be willing to have your own work criticized and evaluated in class in order to learn from that criticism, and you must be willing to deliver critiques of others' poems that are forthright, helpful and positive in nature. Please bring writing materials (pen and paper or notebook) to all classes.

- Plagiarism: For Carleton's policies and procedures related to academic integrity, see the following:
<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>
<http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Definition and examples of plagiarism excerpted from Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy:
http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/academic_integrity_policy.pdf
Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.

INTERMEDIATE POETRY WORKSHOP- WEEKLY COURSE CALENDAR – Winter 2015

Week 1

Introduction

The Alchemy of Poetry

In-Class Writing Exercise/s

Poetry submission schedule

Discussion: Poems from the Tradition

Week 2

First submissions by 3-5 students due and handed out for first discussions in Week 3

In-Class Writing Exercise/s

Research and Important Resource Books

Week 3

Workshop poems

In-class exercises

Poems from the Tradition

(The main focus of all the following classes will be the workshopping (analysis and evaluation) of submitted poems. Throughout the workshopping, there will be comments and occasional forays into details concerning the craft of poetry writing. Often there will be poetry writing exercises included in the class followed by group evaluation, plus discussions of poems from the poetic tradition.)

Week 4

Workshop Manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 5

Workshop Manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 6

Workshop Manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 7

Workshop Manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 8

A visit from an author (TBA)

Workshop Manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 9

Workshop manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 10

Workshop manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 11

Workshop manuscripts

Exercises

Discussion

Week 12
Workshop manuscripts.
Exercises
Discussion

Week 13 (Final class)
Workshop manuscripts
Final discussions concerning the writing life, publishing, literary magazines, etc.

Please note:

Exercises may include any or all of the following: cut-ups, random poems, found poems, the ancient art of copying, poems in a bag, and other possible approaches.

Discussions from the Poetic Tradition may include poems from the following: poetry and song (Cohen, Dylan, Joni Mitchell); poetry and sound (Dylan Thomas, Allen Ginsberg, etc.); haiku; Chinese poetry in translation; Shelley, Yeats, Rilke, Donne, Apollinaire, Whitman, Sylvia Plath, Sappho, Eliot, Frank O'Hara, Billy Collins, the Beats, William Carlos Williams, Anne Carson, Don McKay, Lorca, Neruda, David O'Meara, performance and multimedia poetry, etc.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).