

**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2023**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**

**English 2901 Introductory Poetry Workshop**  
[Prerequisite: Permission of the Creative Writing Committee]

**Time:** Friday 11:35 – 2:25 p.m.  
**Location:** 413 Southam Hall (Tentative)

**Instructor:** David Stymeist  
**Office:** 1819 DT  
**Email:** [david.stymeist@carleton.ca](mailto:david.stymeist@carleton.ca)  
Alternate: [dstymeist@yahoo.ca](mailto:dstymeist@yahoo.ca)

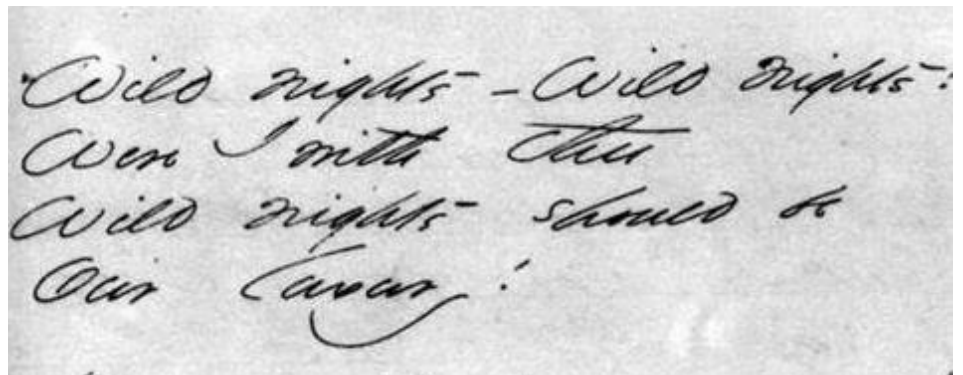
**Office Hours:** Online, by appointment.

**Important note:**

For information on deadlines for withdrawal from courses, please consult the Academic Year section of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>).

## Introduction

Just as colour and shape are the essential materials of painting, language is the primary material of poetry. The poet's detailed attention to language (sound, meaning, context, texture, rhythm) is what distinguishes poetry from other forms of writing.



*(Wild nights - Wild nights! / Were I with thee / Wild nights should be / Our luxury! — Emily Dickinson)*

This course serves as an introduction to writing poetry. Through the composition and group critique of poetry, we will explore a number of major verse forms, such as the lyric poem.

As a workshop, this course offers the singular opportunity to strengthen your skills both as a creative writer and as an editor. Roughly every few weeks, you will be handing in drafts of your own original poems for the rest of the class to read, discuss, and offer constructive, supportive criticism. As well, there will be a number of assigned readings on poetics and poetry. While we will be spending much of our time workshopping fellow

writers' work, we will also discuss the work of established poets, poetic modes, and artistic movements. At the end of the term, writers will submit a portfolio of revised poems for grading.

### **In-Person Section. Not Suitable for Online Students**

#### **Participation**

Since this is a workshop, every student needs to attend, read assigned texts, read and comment on fellow student's work, and come prepared to engage in lively discussions. Part of being a good writer is to become a great reader of other writer's work.

The more you are willing to put into the class, the more all of us will get out of it!

#### **Workshop Structure**

I will provide writing prompts. These prompts will not limit what you can write about, your artistry, or your vision, but will provide a productive constraint in terms of form or structure.

Your poems are due the week before we discuss them. The class downloads them from Brightspace, reads, and thinks about them. Advance distribution allows the time necessary to read and comment on your poetry thoughtfully.

Workshop protocol:

- Everyone reads and comments on the poems before class starts.
- The author reads their poem aloud in class.
- The class discusses the poem (10-15 min.)
- If your poem is being "workshopped," you should let the debate take its own course and don't intervene. You will be given space to clarify and respond at the end.
- Record significant comments in order to assist in the revision process.

#### **Evaluation**

Editorial Participation ( <i>editorial attention to other students' work, quality of contribution to the workshop process</i> )	15%
Poetry Review	20%

Active Participation (discussion in class, prompt submission of poems, reading preparation, attendance)	10%
Final Portfolio	55%

### Application Process

Enrollment in this workshop is limited (max. 20 students).

#### 2022-2023 Creative Writing Workshop Course Application Instructions

- All interested students must submit a [registration override request](#).
- Once the override has been submitted, students must email their writing portfolio to [english@carleton.ca](mailto:english@carleton.ca). You can find the writing portfolio guidelines [here](#).
- Once the writing portfolio has been assessed, students will be notified via the registration override system.

Permission to register in a creative writing workshop is at the discretion of the Creative Writing Committee. Acceptance into a workshop is not guaranteed and is on a first come, first served basis. Students are advised to register in an alternate course until their override has been completed.

**Deadlines:** Writing portfolios must be submitted prior to the first day of class for each semester. Winter override requests and writing portfolios must be submitted before **January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023**. (It is suggested that you submit portfolios as soon as you are able as space is limited in the course.)

### About the Instructor

David Stymeist's collection, *The Bone Weir*, was published by Frontenac House in 2016 and was shortlisted for the Canadian Author's Association award for Poetry. His creative work has appeared in numerous magazines, including *The Antigonish Review*, *Prairie Fire*, *Canadian Literature*, and *The Fiddlehead*. His next collection of poetry, *Cluster Flux* will appear in Fall 2023.

He teaches Creative Writing, Crime Fiction, and Renaissance Literature at Carleton University. His critical essays and reviews have appeared in academic journals, such as *Studies in English Literature*, *Essays in Renaissance Culture*, *Mosaic*, and *College Teaching*.

He grew up as a non-indigenous member of a mixed heritage family on *O-Pipon-Na-Piwin* Cree Nation; these formative cultural experiences continue to guide and shape his identity and his writing. He is the editor and founder of the micro-press, *Textualis*, and is the former president of [VERSe Ottawa](#), which runs VerseFest, Ottawa's annual poetry festival as well as the City of Ottawa's Poet Laureate program.



**[A Detailed Daily Workshop Schedule will be posted on Brightspace]**

### **Course Regulations**

The mark distribution for the year will be Term Grade: 100%. Class participation marks will include participation in class discussion, Prompt submission of your writing, reading preparation, and consistent attendance. Consistent attendance is required in this class.

All assignments must be handed in on the date specified unless previously cleared with the professor. Assignments must be handed to the professor directly in class or emailed on the due date.

Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day. Assignments without medical extension will not be accepted after two weeks of the due date. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Students can expect to receive graded feedback in a timely manner; the instructor reserves the right to limit commentary on late assignments and portfolios. Students are required to submit all major assignments in order to pass the course as a whole.

Class etiquette: All digital activity in the class with personal devices should be directly connected to class activity; in other words, you shouldn't be checking your Facebook/Instagram page.

### **Grading System:**

Assignments in this course will be graded using the letter grading system: A-, A, A+ (Excellent); B-, B, B+ (Good); C-, C, C+ (Satisfactory); D, D+ (Minimal pass); F (Failure). Percentage conversion: A+ (90-100%), A (85-89), A- (80-84), B+ (77-79), B (73-76), B- (70-72), C+ (67-69), C (63-66), C- (60-62), D+ (57-59), D (53-56), D (50-52), F (0-49).

Note that standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment
- using another’s data or research findings
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

## Statement on Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

**Emergency Resources (on and off campus):** <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

## Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Off Campus Resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

### **Special Information Regarding Winter 2023 Pandemic Measures**

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette. Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you must follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

**Masks:** Carleton has paused its mandatory mask mandate as of June 25, 2022. Even though masks will no longer be mandatory, we continue to strongly recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. For more information please visit <https://carleton.ca/covid19/policies-and-protocols/mask-policy/>.

**Vaccines:** While proof of vaccination is no longer required as of May 1 to attend campus or in-person activity, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible, and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact [covidinfo@carleton.ca](mailto:covidinfo@carleton.ca).

## Requests for 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:** 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. For accommodation regarding a formally scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

**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. For more details [click here](#).

**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](mailto: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).

## Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

## Accommodation for Student Activities



Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>