

**Carleton University
Winter 2019
Department of English**

English 2901 Introductory Poetry Workshop
[Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor]

Time: Thursday 11:35 – 2:25

Location: Room 1006 DT (confirm on Carleton Central)

Instructor: David Stymeist

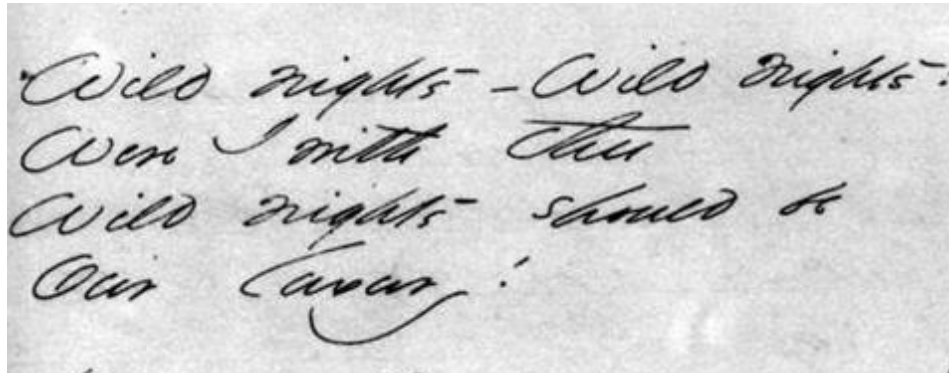
Office: 1819 DT

Email: dstymeist@yahoo.ca

Office Hours: TBA, or by appointment.

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) is what primarily 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 some of the major forms of poetry, such as the free verse lyric poem, the sonnet, the ekphrastic (or art-focussed) poem, the Ghazal, the image/object poem, and narrative/dramatic verse. As a workshop, this course offers the singular opportunity to strengthen your skills both as a creative writer and as an editor. Roughly every two 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 time workshoping our fellow writers' work, we will also be examining the work of established poets. At the end of the term, you will present your revised poems in a portfolio and submit it for grading.

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 people'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 bi-weekly writing prompts. These prompts will not limit what you can write about, your artistry, or your vision, but will provide productive constraint in terms of form or structure.

Your poems are due in hardcopy at the beginning of class the week before we discuss them. We will pass them around and then take them home to read and think about. This lets us have the time necessary to read and comment on your poetry thoroughly.

Workshop protocols:

- 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.

Grades

Active Participation (discussion in class, prompt submission of poems, reading preparation, attendance)	15%
Editorial Participation (editorial attention to other students' work, quality of contribution to the workshop process)	15%
Poetry Review	15%
Final Portfolio	55%

Application Process

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

A portfolio must be sent to english@carleton.ca by **Oct. 30th**. Include ENGL 2901 PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION as the subject line. (If the class is not full, late submissions may be considered)

Acceptance is at the discretion of the instructor and is not guaranteed.

Portfolio Submission Guidelines:

1. A cover page with your full name, Carleton email, and student ID number
2. A brief statement (maximum 250-300 words) indicating a few writers that may have influenced your writing, why you want to take this workshop, and any previous writing/workshopping experience. (Writers at all levels of experience and comfort with poetry are welcome.)
3. A sample of your poetry of no more than 6 pages in total. (Use 12-point font, standard margins, and each page should include both your name and page number. Word or PDF file format preferred) Select your best, most polished poems. All forms/subjects are acceptable.

Decisions will be sent to students by email. As there is no guarantee a student will be accepted into this workshop, students are advised to register in another course until the final selection has been made.



About the Instructor

David Stymeist's poetry 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*, *Dalhousie Review*, and *The Fiddlehead*.

He teaches Creative Writing, Crime Fiction, Digital Humanities, Renaissance Literature, and Aboriginal 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 family on O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation, is the editor and founder of the micro-press, Textualis, and is the current 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 Schedule will be posted on CULearn]

Course Regulations

The mark distribution for the year will be Term Grade: 100%. Class participation marks will include participation in class discussion, response to written comments on graded assignments, consistent attendance, and full reading preparation for each assigned text. Consistent attendance is required in this workshop; students failing to attend an absolute **minimum of 40%** of the classes will not receive grades for their assignments.

All assignments must be handed in on the date specified unless cleared previously with the professor. Assignments must be handed to me in person or to the drop box in the English department office (1812 Dunton Tower) on the due date. If you choose to use the drop box, you must be prepared to incur any late penalties that may accumulate due to the unlikely occurrence of the paper's loss or misfiling.

Late assignments and portfolios will be penalized 2% per day that the assignment is overdue. Assignments without medical extension will not be accepted after two weeks of the due date. No faxes or emails of student work will be accepted. 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 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."*

This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- 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 serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the university's Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>

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 obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website:

carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website:

carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

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 its 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: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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 must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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>

