

# Poetry: The Open Mind

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Lecturer: Mark Frutkin

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## Schedule of topics:

### Week 1

Introduction and overview of writing poetry. Reading and discussion of poems by Alden Nowlan and Don McKay. In class writing exercises. (First distribution of student poems between Week 1 and 2. Student poems for discussion each week will be sent to the Lecturer, Mark Frutkin, by email and distributed by him to the class by email.)

### Week 2

Word exercises. Reading and discussion of poems by Sylvia Plath and Billy Collins. Important reference books for readers and writers of poetry. In class writing exercises. First discussion of student poems.

### Week 3

Books on reading and writing poetry. Word exercises. Reading and discussion of Chinese poetry (Women Poets of China) and Japanese poetry, including classical and modern haiku. In-class haiku writing exercises and other poems. Discussion of student poems.

### Week 4

Reading and discussion of poems by Carol Ann Duffy and William Butler Yeats. In class writing exercises. Discussion of student poems.

### Week 5

Reading and discussion of poems by Frank O'Hara and Mary Oliver. In class writing exercises. Discussion of student poems.

### Week 6

Reading and discussion of poems by Guillaume Apollinaire and Walt Whitman. In class writing exercises. Discussion of student poems.

**Please Note:** The submission of your own poems is entirely optional. Anyone can benefit from the course without submitting any of their own poems. **Also, the poets discussed in the classes could change somewhat depending on whether any students signing up have taken the course previously.**

**Recommended readings for continued learning:**

*Break, Blow, Burn (43 of the World's Best Poems)* by Camille Paglia

*Writing Down the Bones* by Natalie Goldberg

**Other interesting resources:**

*Writing from the Senses* by Laura Deutsch

*The Practice of Poetry* edited by Robin Behn and Chase Twichell

*A Poetry Handbook* by Mary Oliver

And others to be discussed in class.