Poetry: The Open Mind

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

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.
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.