Where Are We Now & How Do We Do That?

Stony Brook University, Creative Writing and Literature
CWL 310 Forms of Poetry, Tue & Thur 2:30-3:50pm
This course satisfies the the SBC categories HFA+, WRTD

Course Instructor: Anthony DiPietro
Office Hours: Tue-Thur 1:30-2:30pm
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[UNIVERSITY COURSE DESCRIPTION]

Study of the genre through readings, discussion and regular submission of original work. Course explores methods for expressing the human condition made available through poetry, with examples from the tradition of such tools as metaphor and image, sound, line, form, and juxtaposition.

[WHAT WE’LL REALLY DO]

What are the hallmarks of American poetry in 2017, and how did we get here? How do successful poets do it well—and what is “it”? We’ll explore Modernism’s long shadow as we dive into form, craft, voice, and technique, reading diverse living poets, plus a handful we owe our traditions to. Along the way, we’ll explore literature, music, and other arts and media as sources of inspiration for our own poems. Be ready to read deep and write more than you thought you could. As a reward for our hard work, we’ll each walk away with a snazzy chapbook to showcase our new contemporary poems.

[LEARNING OBJECTIVES]

- To explore and use literature as a source of inspiration for new poems
- To create and practice new creative writing prompts for ourselves
- To analyze and critique our strengths and weaknesses as poets
- To use common literary terms to articulate what is unique about texts discussed in class, including peers’ poems and our own creative work
- To write and revise poems, culminating with a final chapbook
[EXPECTATIONS]

Required Readings:
- Terrance Hayes, *Lighthead*
- Stacey Waite, *Butch Geography*
- John Murillo, *Up Jump the Boogie*
- Charif Shanahan, *Into Each Room We Enter Without Knowing*
- Rigoberto Gonzalez, *Unpeopled Eden*
- Patrick Donnelly, *Nocturnes of the Brothel of Ruin*
- Six numbered poetry packets on Blackboard

Required Assignments:
- Instructions for creative assignments will be handed out two weeks in advance.
- There will be ten creative assignments, five 1-page reading annotations, a final chapbook, and a final 2-page reflection paper.
- Note that there are 10 outside reading assignments, and each student must annotate their choice of 5 readings in the course of the semester. Each time reading is due, you have the option to turn in an annotation. Since readings are discussed on the day they are due, late annotations will not be accepted.

Attendance and Make Up Policy:
- This is a community, and we all rely on each other.
- If you will miss class, let me know in advance, and I will be much more likely to be in a good mood about the work you miss.
- Attendance and punctuality are factored into your participation grade, which means I may deduct points for tardiness and missing class.
- Because there are 18 other people who need to read your work in order for workshop to run well, late creative work or make-up assignments will only be accepted at my discretion.

[GRADES]
- Five annotations each worth 4 points = 20%
- Ten poems will be turned in, each worth 4 points = 40%
- Final portfolio and reflection paper = 25%
- Participation = 15%. This includes attendance, punctuality, attitude, and participation in class discussions and activities.

[CLASS PROTOCOL]
- We are working together to build a respectful community of writers. This means that we all have responsibilities and can expect certain things from one another—commitment, listening, and attention.
- We will all contribute to a nurturing, supportive classroom environment where we can do our best work.
- We will not tolerate forms of racism, sexism, homophobia—or other isms or phobias related to personal identities or cultures.
[SCHEDULE, OUTLINE & DUE DATES]

#1, Tuesday 8/29: Getting to Know Each Other
- Reading for next time: syllabus and Ted Kooser chapters 2 and 9

#2, Thursday 8/31: Poetry Tools and Terms
- Reading for next time: packet #1 including “Dover Beach”
- Instructor to hand out poetry prompts for Workshop I-II
- Instructor to hand out Annotation Guide so you’ll know what’s expected for your 5 annotations
- Instructor to hand out Crib Sheet on how to read a poetry collection and be prepared for class discussions

Tuesday 9/5: LABOR DAY—NO CLASSES IN SESSION

#3, Thursday 9/7: Roots of Modernity
- Reading for next time: Ted Kooser chapters 3, 6, and 8

#4, Tuesday 9/12: Zen and the Art of Poetry Home Repair

#5, Thursday 9/14: A Revision Methodology, Part 1—In and Out
- Due: write and turn in two original poems
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 1-18
- Instructor to hand out Workshop Model
- Instructor to hand out Revision Protocol
- Instructor to hand out poetry prompts for Workshop III-IV

#6, Tuesday 9/19: Workshop I
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 19-36

#7, Thursday 9/21: Workshop II
- Reading for next time: packet #2 including “Sonnet, with Pride”
- Reading for next time: Ted Kooser pp. 39-44 and chapters 5 and 7

#8, Tuesday 9/26: Shape, Line—Formal Poetry
- Reading for next time: Terrance Hayes, Lighthead

#9, Thursday 9/28: Theft and Invention
- Due: write and turn in two original poems
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 1-18

#10, Tuesday 10/3: Workshop III
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 19-36

#11, Thursday 10/5: Workshop IV
- Reading for next time: Ted Kooser chapters 10, 11, and 12
- Instructor to hand out poetry prompts for Workshop V-VI

#12, Tuesday 10/10: A Revision Methodology, Part 2—More or Less?
- Reading for next time: Stacey Waite, Butch Geography

#13, Thursday 10/12: Who Are We? Part 1—Gender
- Reading for next time: poetry packet #3 including “Upon Reading That Eric Dolphy Transcribed Even the Calls of Certain Species of Birds,”
[SCHEDULE, OUTLINE & DUE DATES—CONT’D]

#14, Tuesday 10/17: Authorial Voice
- Due: write and turn in two original poems
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 1-18
- Instructor to hand out poetry prompts for Workshop VII-VIII

#15, Thursday 10/19: Workshop V
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 19-36

#16, Tuesday 10/24: Workshop VI
- Reading for next time: Charif Shanahan, Into Each Room We Enter Without Knowing, opening and first two sections

#17, Thursday 10/26: Write Your Hand Off
- Reading for next time: Charif Shanahan, Into Each Room We Enter Without Knowing, last two sections and closing

#18, Tuesday 10/31: Who Are We? Part 2—Race & Sexuality
- Reading for next time: Rigoberto Gonzalez, Unpeopled Eden and packet #4 including “What Every Soldier Should Know”

#19, Thursday 11/2: Political Poems
- Due: write and turn in two original poems
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 1-18

#20, Tuesday 11/7: Workshop VII
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 19-36
- Instructor to hand out poetry prompts for Workshop IX-X

#21, Thursday 11/9: Workshop VIII
- Homework for next time: bring a favorite example of literature, art or media that could inspire a poem—this can include visual art, text, a song, video, or other multimedia piece—no longer than 3-4 minutes.

#22, Tuesday 11/14: Favorite Media Day

#23, Thursday 11/16: Student-Designed Poetry Prompts
- Reading for next time: Patrick Donnelly, Nocturnes of the Brothel of Ruin and poetry packet #5 including “A Remedy for Insomnia”

#24, Tuesday 11/21: Skating to the Edge of Sentimentalism
- Due: write and turn in two original poems
- Reading for next time: peers’ poems 1-18
- Homework for next time: design an original cover for your chapbook and bring it to class
- Instructor to hand out instructions for chapbook and final reflection paper

Thursday 11/23: THANKSGIVING—NO CLASSES IN SESSION
CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

[about harassment/ other disruptions]

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students’ ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

[SCHEDULE, OUTLINE & DUE DATES—CONT’D]

#25, Tuesday 11/28: Workshop IX
- Reading for next time: peers' poems 19-36

#26, Thursday 11/30: Workshop X
- Reading for next time: packet #6 including “Facts About the Moon”

#27, Tuesday 12/5: In the Room the Women Come and Go...

#28, Thursday 12/7: Epilogue
- Reflective closing discussion
- Course evaluations completed
- Final chapbook due in bound hard copy
- Final reflection paper due