

ENGLISH 482: Advanced Creative Writing—Poetry Evans 260 5:00-6:20 TTH 3 Credit Hours
Dr. Melissa Morphew Spring 2008
Office 116 Evans 294-1944 eng_smm@shsu.edu
Office Hours 3:00-5:00 TTH 2:00-3:00 MW Others by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An advanced writing class which emphasizes the writing of poetry, with related outside readings in poetic theory and form. Prerequisite: English 382.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Students will gain a working knowledge of poetics and prosody.
Students will learn the specialized terminology of poetics and prosody.
Students will learn how to distinguish poems from prose.
Students will learn what writing techniques make a poem successful.
Students will gain proficiency in the writing of original poems of various kinds.
Students will gain proficiency in the writing of sonnets, villanelles, and other fixed forms.
Students will learn how to write and compile a group of thematically related poems suitable for a chapbook.
Students will learn how to utilize a work from another discipline to generate ideas for original poems.
Students will analyze the markets for poems, and learn how those markets determine what is/isn't a "good" poem.
Students will gain a deeper understanding of what makes poems important not only to individuals but to our culture.
Students will develop a poetic philosophy detailing their own "vision"—"*ars poetica*."

COURSE POLICIES:

Since your assignments and projects will be based upon, not only the assigned texts, but also class discussion and workshopping, attendance is extremely important. You are allowed 3 absences without penalty. After the 3rd absence, your final grade will be reduced by one letter grade. After the 6th absence, your final grade will be reduced by two letter grades. If you are absent more than 10 class periods you will automatically receive a failing grade. It is your responsibility to inform me of your presence at the end of the class period should you come in late.

I expect you to come prepared to discuss the selections and present your work.

Your grade will be based on a poetry portfolio of ten polished poems and all the exercises, original drafts, and revisions produced in this class, at least 4 short essays on the art and craft of writing poetry, and a class journal. One of the four essays will be completed during the scheduled final exam.

We will not only write poems in this class, we will also read them. The poems I assign will vary according to the needs of the class, so it is important if you are absent to make sure you check Blackboard for the latest assignments.

Your assignments and class updates will be listed on Blackboard.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry [BOX SET] (Paperback)
by Richard Ellmann (Editor), Robert O'Clair (Editor), Jahan Ramazani (Editor), Richard Ellman (Author)

OTHER:

You will be asked to find a book from another discipline to use throughout the semester as an idea "stimulator." I will explain this in full in class.

You will also read and write various essays, poems, and other bits and pieces throughout the semester.

THE PORTFOLIO:

A portfolio containing 10 polished poems, ALL your class exercises, original drafts, and revisions will be due at the end of the semester along with your final and your journal.

THE JOURNAL:

You will be asked to complete 20 assignments for your journal.

YOUR GRADE WILL BE WEIGHTED AS FOLLOWS:

PORTFOLIO—40%

JOURNAL—30%

ESSAYS (Including the Final)—30%

*****!!**If you are absent it is your duty to find out what you missed and what you need to make up, either by checking Blackboard of from me or from one of your classmates.***!!****

This schedule is meant as a general guide and **adjustments may be necessary** during the semester.

Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

If you are found guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty at the least you will receive a failing grade on the compromised paper or test, at the most you might end up failing the course, depending upon the severity of the infraction.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

Please turn off all cellphones prior to entering class. It is a tremendous distraction to have cellphones going off in the middle of discussions and lectures. And no texting.

Also, do not, do not read newspapers or textbooks from other courses during class—if you do, I may ask you to leave until you are ready to concentrate on the class at hand.

The key word is R-E-S-P-E-C-T as Aretha so eloquently puts it. ☺