

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 494 Lec 01 Poetry Writing II

Fall 2012 and Winter 2013

Class: Mondays 6:30-9:15 PM, Room SS1153
Instructor: Rachel Zolf
Office: SS1110
Phone: 403.220.4683
E-mail: rzolf@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 5-6 pm and by appointment

Course description:

English 494 is an intermediate workshop in writing poetry. The aim of the course is to familiarize students in a practical way with strategies of language, structure and content used in contemporary poetry. The course is conducted on the seminar/workshop model. This means students will be expected to actively write and submit poetry-related exercises and their own poetry for discussion by the class on a regular basis, to read their fellow students' work and to come to class prepared to discuss this writing with constructive, informed, and intelligent criticism. Students will also be reading contemporary poetry and criticism, and taking turns presenting these texts to the class for discussion. Students are also expected to attend local readings and performances outside of class time.

Prerequisite: Full junior English or equivalent and consent of the Department

Selected texts (available in the University Bookstore):

Erín Moure, *Furious*

M. NourbeSe Philip, *Zong*

Kaia Sand, *Remember to Wave*

Bhanu Kapil, *The Vertical Interrogation of Strangers*

Juliana Spahr, *Well then there now*

Garry Thomas Morse, *Discovery Passages*

Lyn Hejinian, *My Life* (digital edition: <http://www.greeninteger.com/book-digital.cfm?-Lyn-Hejinian-My-Life-&BookID=295>)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Students should come to this class prepared for intensive reading and writing. Grades will be based on the quality of the writing, ability to critique and participate in class discussions, and on formal presentations. Your final grade will consist of an evaluation of all the work you hand in. Your attendance, participation, and the degree of improvement you make will figure into your final mark. You are expected to attend and to contribute to class discussion. Below is a breakdown of how the final grade is determined. You will be given feedback throughout the year, and you may not skip any component of the grade requirements.

Writing Component of Final Grade (70%)

You are expected to generate approximately 30 to 45 pages of excellent, polished (which means re-written, not first draft) writing, to be handed in and critiqued in installments for the duration of the

course, and then submitted as a final, polished project at the end of the course, no later than the last day of class. You will also submit poetics process statements throughout the year and a detailed final poetics statement in your final portfolio.

All work must be typed and double-spaced in a legible font, no smaller than 12 point (with allowances for page and type design of poems).

Participation (including critique and attendance) (10%)

In order to receive full marks for the Participation component of the final grade, students must arrive punctually, attend class and participate in class discussion. Five percent of your class participation grade will be deducted for each class missed without a medical or other valid reason.

Students are also required to critique and edit their colleagues' work with care and in some detail, providing two copies of a one paragraph to one page long, double-spaced written commentary for each submission critiqued (one for the instructor and one for the student whose work is being discussed). These critiques are due on the evening of the class discussion.

Writing Exercises and Journal (5%)

In addition, exercises will be assigned in class. These will not be graded, but marks will be deducted if the exercises are not completed. You will also be responsible for maintaining a writer's journal throughout the year, which will be periodically checked by the instructor. Marks will be deducted if assigned entries aren't completed.

In-class Presentations (10%)

The class will be reading contemporary poetic and critical texts throughout the year. We will be reading and discussing these texts, not so much from an academic or critical perspective, but as writers attempting to learn from the approaches and techniques employed. Although individual students will be presenting a given text and leading discussion, all students are responsible for reading all the texts and coming to class prepared to discuss them. Each student will make at least two presentations to the class during the year. Following the discussion, the student will write up his or her presentation. These written presentations are due by the end of each term.

Reading Reviews (5%)

Readings and other literary events provide students with exposure to the writing community and performance techniques. Students will hand in a one-page, typed, double-spaced report on the reading or event (you will not have to analyze a great deal, as this is difficult when literary texts are heard only once, but you should describe and remark on the event you have chosen). The first two reports are due by the last class of the Fall semester; the remaining two by the last class of the Winter semester.

End of Year Reading and Class Chapbook

At the end of the Academic year, all the Creative Writing classes hold a mass evening reading. To celebrate that event, each class puts together a chapbook which they sell, and which gives every student who submits a publishing credit. If you are interested in editing or designing, you can choose to be a part of the team that puts the class chapbook together. Those who do that work will have their contribution counted with positive prejudice toward their class participation grade.

Students must complete **ALL** assignments in order to pass the course. There is **NO** final exam in this course.

E-mail and electronic submissions policy:

Assignments and course work must be submitted in class, on the due date and in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made. In particular, submitting work by e-mail without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work on time, in class.

Note: Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and place it in the drop-box. Your assignment will then be date-stamped and placed in your instructor's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

The University of Calgary's official grading system is used in this course:

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

Policy on late assignments: There is no exam in this course. All written assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each day [not class] that the assignment is overdue, unless a written proof of medical reasons is provided. Please note that students must complete all assignments within 30 days of the end of term in order to qualify for a passing grade in the course.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:

Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the *Calendar* for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University *Calendar* link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See *Calendar*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints;>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University *Calendar* states:

1. **Plagiarism** - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University *Calendar*, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.