

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ENG 13A

INTRODUCTION TO THE CRAFT OF WRITING - POETRY

Effective: Fall 2017

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ENG 13A — INTRODUCTION TO THE CRAFT OF WRITING - POETRY — 3.00 units

Practice in writing poetry, using materials drawn from published poetry and individual's own work for analysis and criticism, with a focus on techniques of revision.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

ENG 11 - Introduction to Creative Writing

ENG 1A - Critical Reading and Composition

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

- A. ENG11
- B. ENG1A

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Recognize the range of structural choices available to the poet in both traditional and modern forms
- B. Describe and identify the use of image, metaphor and symbol, use of sound, and a variety of fixed forms
- C. Practice in writing standard techniques of critical revision as an essential part of the creative process.
- D. Practice the methods and protocol of written and verbal critique for creative writing.
- E. Recognize and identify the elements of skilled oral presentation of poetry
- F. Critique a given oral performance of poetry through evaluation of these elements
- G. Explain the methods of manuscript submission and the markets for poetry

V. CONTENT:

- A. Read and discuss selected works of poetry, covering the range of statement possible in poetic forms;
- B. Write poetic work through controlled assignments to enable the student to attempt specific elements and techniques;
- C. Develop the vocabulary of criticism necessary to the evaluation of one's own work;
- D. Discuss and develop methods for verbal and written critique;
- E. Study and practice of the elements of oral presentation of poetry, for example tone, diction, and pacing;
- F. Evaluate oral presentations of professional poets through attendance of local readings and/or audio and video recordings

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. **Lecture** -
- C. Oral presentation of student writing
- D. **Critique** - Oral analysis and critique of student writing
- E. **Guest Lecturers** -
- F. **Written exercises and case studies** - In-class writing assignments
- G. **Guest Lecturers** -
- H. Multi-media presentations
- I. **Field Trips** -
- J. **Written exercises and case studies** - Written analysis of student writing

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Reading and analysis

1. Outline the requirements and variations of the sonnet form and discuss the ways in which Shakespeare's "Sonnet 118" relates content to form.
2. Describe the images used in Sylvia Plath's "Lady Lazarus" and provide interpretations for the symbolism, supported by the language, sound, and tone of Plath's writing.

B. Writing

1. Take notice of two elements of Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay": sound, structure, rhythm, image, or meaning. Then write a poem of your own that echoes and "talks back to" these two elements.
2. Considering connection between form and content, write a poem in one of the following fixed forms: sonnet, rondolet, villanelle, sestina, haiku, or tanka; provide a paragraph explaining the ways in which you have attempted to relate the content of your poem to the chosen form.

C. Presentation

1. Present published and/or original works of poetry employing skills of intonation, memorization, and body movement to express meaning and mood of written poetry.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Portfolios
3. Oral Presentation
4. Projects
5. Field Trips
6. Class Participation
7. Final Class Performance
8. Other:
 - a. Attendance of Public Reading
 - b. Workshops

B. **Frequency**

1. Exams:
 - a. Midterm
2. Class Participation:
 - a. Weekly discussion and readings: oral performance
 - b. Weekly or Bi-Weekly Workshops
3. Final Performance:
 - a. Memorization and Recitation
4. Attendance of Public Reading: Field Trip
 - a. Once during the semester
5. Final Project: Portfolio

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Mason, D., & Nims, J.F. (2006). *Western Wind: An Introduction to Poetry* (5th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
2. Bloch, C. (2016). *Swimming In The Rain: New and Selected Poems 1980-2015* (1st ed.). Pittsburgh, PA: Autumn House Press.
3. The League of Canadian Poets, . (2016). *Measures of Astonishment: Poets on Poetry* (1st ed.). Regina, Saskatchewan: University of Regina Press.
4. Schakel, P., & Ridl, J. (2014). *250 Poems, A Portable Anthology* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Macmillan Publishers.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: