**Professor: Thomas Lux**

**LMC 3204 Poetry & Poetics I**

**CRN: 23194**

Spring 2013

Georgia Institute of Technology

# Monday 3:05-5:55 Classroom: Poetry @ TECH

**Office:** Poetry @ TECH 0-165 Skiles

**Phone:** (404) 385-2418

**Office Hours:**  Mon/Tues (sign-up sheet on office door)

**Email:**  tnlux@aol.com

**Course Prerequisite: English 1102**

**Core Area Fulfilled by this Class: Area C, Humanities**

## Course Description

This course is designed for the new reader of poetry as well as those who are experienced readers of poetry. The course is designed not only for those who wish to study the craft of poetry from a literary standpoint, but also for those who seek to analyze poems through the lens of a creative writer. The class provides students the unique opportunity to study poetry in an intensive reading course where representative poems from nearly all major poetic movements will be examined line by line with close attention paid to sound and sense, as well as form and theory. The poems will also be examined in the appropriate historical and cultural perspective.

This syllabus will serve as a contract between you and your instructor throughout the semester.

**Learning Outcomes**

\* Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.

\* Literary/Film/Narrative Art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.

\*Students will devote an entire semester to the reading and study of poetry and become conversant with issues of technique as well as literary devices and poetic forms.

\*Students will understand the defining characteristics of the specific genre studied and what sets it apart from other writing genres and artforms.

**Required Texts**

There are no required texts to be purchased. I will provide you with your poetry anthology as well as all additional texts for the course. You may be asked to bring in additional web-based or library materials which you will be assigned to find on your own. More on that in class.

Subscription to “The Writer’s Almanac” Online. It’s free!!! You get it in your email each day. Go to [www.mpr.org](http://www.mpr.org). Search “Writer’s Almanac.” Then sign up.

**Additional Materials Needed**

You will also need a binder for maintaining your portfolio.

**Graded Assignments:**

**Your Grade will be calculated based on the following:**

Attendance/ Class Participation =25%

Final Paper =20%

Mid-term Exam =10%

Reviews =25%

Attend Two Poetry @ TECH Events =20%

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=your grade

## Attendance

In order to succeed as a writer, or in any other field of study for that matter, one must be dedicated and disciplined. A major indicator of those two traits is regular attendance. Therefore, any more than 2 absences WILL result in your grade being reduced by one standard letter grade.

Tardiness must also be kept to a minimum as three tardies WILL equal one absence. If you must be late or absent on a given day, please e-mail me in advance and I will extend you the same courtesy.

**Class Participation**

Of course being present in body is important, but being present in mind is equally, if not more important. That is why you must add to class discussions and comment on your colleagues’ work as necessary. In order to receive all points for class participation you must have read all assigned materials as well as read your colleagues’ poems for workshop and prepared comments in advance.

## Assignments

Your talent as a writer or your level of creativity will not be graded. However, your time put into assignments or your level of engagement will.

## Poetry Readings

Because learning the poet’s craft is so closely tied with watching other poets read, you are expected to attend at least two Poetry @ TECH poetry readings during Spring Semester 2013. For each reading you attend, you are required to write a thoughtful response/reaction/analysis of at least 500 words. We’ll discuss this further in class.

## Late Work

If you know that you will be absent on the day that an assignment is due, then turn in that assignment in class on the day before it is due. If you have an unforeseen illness or emergency the day that an assignment is due, you must make every effort to e-mail me that assignment. Turning in work late may result in a standard letter-grade deduction for that assignment.

# Special Accommodations

I will always do my best to provide you with the least restrictive learning environment possible, but anyone with special learning needs should contact ADAPTS (<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>) or let your instructor know if you need any special accommodations.

**Honor Code:**

Please understand that you are guilty of plagiarism if you attempt to present the words, ideas, or work of another as your own without crediting the original source. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code.

You can find the GT Honor Code at <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

**Weekly Schedule:**

1/7

Class Intro

Discussion: The Poet’s Craft

1/14

Little Machines made of Words

1/21

MLK DAY—no school

1/28

How to Read a Poem

2/4

Discussion of upcoming Poetry @ TECH poets: Thom Ward, Laura Newbern and Bruce McEver

2/11

Did she mean to say that? An exploration or craft vs happy accidents in poems

Follow-up discussion to P@T reading

2/18

Selection of poems

2/25

Selection of poems

3/1

Mid-point. Last day to drop and receive a “W”

3/4

Midterm Portfolio Due

Midterm Exam

3/8

Spring Break

3/25

Discussion of upcoming Poetry @ TECH Poets: Robert Wrigley and Kim Addonizio.

4/8

Discussion: Meter and Scansion

Selection of Poems

4/15

Selection of Poems

4/22

Discussion: The Prose Poem

Russell Edson

4/22

Narrative vs Lyric Poems

Selection of Poems

Semester Review

Notes: