**Poetry & Poetics II**

**Poetry Workshop**

**LMC 4204**

**CRN: 29085**

**Spring 2013**

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

**Professor: Thomas Lux**

# Tuesday 1:35-4:25 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**

**It is recommended though not necessary that potential students also complete LMC 3204 or LMC 3234 prior to taking this course.**

**Core Area: Humanities**

## Course Description

This course primarily uses the workshop method to analyze and critique the students’ own poems in a small group setting in order to become, not only better poets, but better editors of their own and the work of others. The student will also study poetic theory and poetic forms and gain an understanding and command of the many literary devices that are the tools of the poet.

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 writing 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.

\*Students will learn to offer and receive constructive criticism in a public forum, while becoming better editors of their own work, as well as the work of others.

\*Students will balance creative endeavors with critical work that exhibits their growing knowledge of the chosen genre.

**Required Texts**

Chad Davidson & Gregory Fraser, *Writing Poetry: Creative and Critical Approaches* ISBN-10: 0230008127 ISBN-13: 978-0230008120

[Richard Ellmann](http://www.amazon.com/Richard-Ellmann/e/B000AP881S/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1288800182&sr=1-1), [Robert O'Clair](http://www.amazon.com/Robert-OClair/e/B001IOH49W/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1288800182&sr=1-1), [Jahan Ramazani](http://www.amazon.com/Jahan-Ramazani/e/B001IOFBYC/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1288800182&sr=1-1), & Richard Ellman,[*The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*](http://www.amazon.com/Norton-Anthology-Modern-Contemporary-Poetry/dp/039332429X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1288800182&sr=1-1) ISBN-10: 039332429X ISBN-13: 978-0393324297

[Eavan Boland](http://www.amazon.com/Eavan-Boland/e/B000APQSN8/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1288800368&sr=1-1) & [Mark Strand](http://www.amazon.com/Mark-Strand/e/B000AP9N44/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_1?qid=1288800368&sr=1-1) [*The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms*](http://www.amazon.com/Making-Poem-Norton-Anthology-Poetic/dp/0393321789/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1288800368&sr=1-1) ISBN-10: 0393321789 ISBN-13: 978-0393321784

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%

Daily Poem Assignments =20%

Mid-term Exam =20%

Final Portfolio =25%

Attend Two Poetry @ TECH Events =10%

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

=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

Good Poems: Selections from the Norton

1/14

Surviving the Poetry Workshop:

Making it out with my craft intact

1/21

MLK DAY—no school

1/28

Discussion: Writing, Revising, Editing

How to Read a Poem

Assign 1st Writing Prompt: Free Verse. (George Ella Lyons, *Where I’m From*)

2/4

Discussion: What’s It Like: Simile, Metaphor and the Five Senses

In-class Writing Prompt

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

Workshop

2/11

Discussion: Verse Paragraphs, Line Breaks

In-class Writing Prompt

Workshop

2/18

Workshop

2/25

Discussion: Creativity and Craft vs Inspiration

Poetic Form: Sestina, Sonnet, Villanelle, and Blank Verse

Assign Second Writing Prompt: Formal Poem Assignment

3/1

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

3/4

Midterm Portfolio Due

Midterm Exam

Workshop

3/8

Spring Break

3/25

Workshop

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

4/8

Discussion: Meter and Scansion

In-class Writing Prompt

Workshop

4/15

Workshop

4/22

Discussion: The Prose Poem

Russell Edson

Assign Third Writing Prompt: Prose Poem

4/22

Narrative vs Lyric Poems

Workshop

Notes: