Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

**Course Document**

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| **Course number:** | **ENG 131** | |
| **Course title:** | **Creative Writing Poetry** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Class hours:** | **3** | Lab hours: | | |  | | Credit hours | | | **3** | |
| **Catalog course description:** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| An introduction to the art of writing poetry. Topics in this workshop-oriented class include the invention process, revision, poetic form, and critical response to works of literature and student work. Upon completion students should be able to craft and critique their own poems and the poems of others. A portfolio of finished work will be required of all students. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Course prerequisites:** | | 6 credit hours of ENG | | | | | | **Lab fee:** |  | | |
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| **Course Goals** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Students will become familiar with a variety of creative discovery techniques 2. Students will become familiar with a variety of poetic forms and conventions 3. Students will increase their familiarity with contemporary poetry 4. Students will learn to give and accept constructive criticism of creative writing   .   1. Students will learn to evaluate criticism of their poems and revise their work | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Course** **Objectives** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Students will achieve course goals by   1. Writing poems both independently and in response to a variety of composition exercises. 2. Writing poems in forms including, but not limited to free-verse, metrical verse, sonnet, villanelle, sestina, ballad, and ghazal. 3. Reading, discussing in class, and writing about at least one book of poetry published during the last ten (10) years. 4. Regularly participating in workshop discussions of student work and responding, in writing to other students’ work. 5. Creating a portfolio of no fewer than ten (10) poems written and revised during the course of the term. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Required text(s):** | |  | | | |  | | |  | | |
| A copy of Best American Poetry of 2015. David Lehman, ed. | | | | | | | | | | |
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| **Instructor of record:** | | | | Geoffrey Woolf | | | | | | | |
| **DATE REVISED:** | | | | Aug 2012 | | | | | | | |
| **REVISER:** | | | | GW | | | | | | | |

#### Geoffrey Woolf

**Office:** Main 232:

**Office Hours:**

**Office Phone:** 569-1728

**Email:** [geoffrey.woolf@cincinnatistate.edu](mailto:geoffrey.woolf@cincinnatistate.edu)

**Twitter**: @GWCstate

**Text**: 513.294.8094

**Website**: mycstate.cincinnatistate.edu

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Missing 20% of class sessions will be grounds for failure of the course.

**Lateness**: If you must arrive late, enter the room quietly and sit in the closest available seat. Do not speak to those around you or ask questions until the instructor provides an opportunity. Lateness will not be tolerated. The instructor is not responsible for students' being marked absent because they were late.

**Leaving Early:** If you must leave early, sit near the door and leave as quietly as possible. Do not call attention to yourself or address questions or comments connected to your leaving early to the instructor. Students who leave class early will be marked absent.

**Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices will be turned off or switched to silent mode while class is in session. Students whose electronic devices disrupt class will be counted absent for that class session. Text messaging is not acceptable during class time and is grounds for being marked absent and/or being called-out in awkward ways. Unless otherwise notified, the use of laptops and tablets during class is prohibited. Electronic cigarettes may not be used in class.

**Late work:**

**Writing Assignments**: **Students are expected to turn-in all work on time in electronic form only (on Blackboard).** No hard copies will be accepted**,** unless otherwise instructed. Late assignments will be penalized 50% if they are turned in by the next class session. After more than one class session has passed, the assignment will no longer be accepted for credit. If the assignment has not been turned-in in electronic form, it is late. Your instructor makes no exceptions to late policies.

Assignments sent by email or placed in my mailbox will be ignored and/or deleted.

Students are not to nag the instructor about having late work returned. Late work will be graded by the end of the term; however, students forfeit their right to timely grading or comments by turning work in late.

**In-class Exams**: If you know that you will miss a scheduled test, please inform me during the next class session or sooner. I will grant no make-up test later than one week. Missed tests earn a zero.

**QUIZZES AND IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**: There might be unannounced quizzes. No make-ups will be allowed on these quizzes. No assignment that is given and completed during one class session may be made-up. This includes in-class writings and group activities. Each student’s lowest quiz grade will be dropped for the purpose of calculating grades.

**Class progress:** You are responsible for keeping track of your class progress. When you need help or have problems with an assignment, it is your responsibility to seek help from the instructor. You are responsible for keeping track of your assignments. I will not remind you of missing assignments.

**Assignment Format:** All assignments must uploaded in .doc or .docx format. Assignments (except for poems) must comply with MLA rules for format and documentation**. Use the assignment due-date on your work, not the date you do the work, and not the date you actually turn it in. Your instructor is not responsible for grade book errors that result from your putting the incorrect dates on assignments.**

**Scoring:** All Grades will be computed using a ten-point scale.

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0-59 F

**Email:** Cincinnati State email is an official means of communication between the college and the students. I expect students to monitor their Cincinnati State email accounts. I will sometimes send messages to the class about schedule, room, and/or assignment changes. If I am forced to cancel class, I will make notification by email, as well as posting an announcement on Blackboard. To be sure that I will receive and read your messages, please use your Cincinnati State email account.

**Telephone:** Do not call me just to tell me that you will be absent. Do not call to find out what assignments you have missed. If you miss a class, use the Bb discussion board to ask fellow students what you missed. Please feel free to call for any other content related reason.I will not play “phone tag” with you. If you need to speak with me by phone, consult my office hours and call me then. If I am not in my office when you call, it is your responsibility to keep calling until you reach me.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is copying or paraphrasing material that is not your own work without giving proper documentation of the source. Plagiarism includes copying another student’s work, copying work from the Internet, books, or periodicals, and purchasing work. Plagiarism is the most serious form of academic dishonesty and is subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the *Cincinnati State Student Code of Conduct*. If you are caught plagiarizing, your instructor will immediately assign a grade of “F” for the term and pursue disciplinary action under the *Student Code of Conduct.*

**Students with Disabilities:** I am always happy to accommodate students with diagnosed disabilities. If you have a disability or believe that you have a disability, contact Pamela Goins in Disability Services (569-1613).

**Course Content:** This is a course designed for adults. Since poetry has the ability to address all aspects of the human-experience, students should expect a broad range of topics to be emerge during the term, including but not limited to politics, philosophy, religion, social and economic class, sex and gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, violence, power and a variety of other topics. Your instructor is dedicated to facilitating frank, honest, and respectful adult discussion of all of these issues, making room for any and all perspectives. Students may expect to be offended by course content from time to time. That is a normal part of the learning process. However, if you believe that you will be disturbed or damaged by discussion of any of these issues or by diversity of approaches to these issues, this class is not a good fit for you. Please see your instructor privately so that he may facilitate your transfer into a course that will better suit your expectations.

**Tentative Daily Schedule**

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| --- | --- |
| Week 1  1/12-14 | Introductions, class policies, texts  The Workshop Experience  **Free Poem Due Thursday** |
| Week 2  1/19-21 | Workshop  **Free Poem #2 Due Thursday** |
| Week 3  1/26-28 | **Journal #1 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 4  2/2-4 | Workshop  **Exercise #1 Due Thursday** |
| Week 5  2/9-11 | Workshop  **Free Poem #3 Due Thurday** |
| Week 6  2/16-18 | **Exercise #2 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 7  2/23-25 | **Journal #2 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 8  3/1-3 | **Free Poem #4 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 9  3/8-10 | **Exercise #3 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 10  3/15-17 | **Journal #3 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 11  3/29-31 | **Free Poem #5 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 12  4/5-7 | **Exercise #4 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 13  4/12-14 | **Free Poem #6 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 14  4/19-21 | **Journal #4 Due Thursday**  Workshop |
| Week 15  4/26-28 | **Special Topic Journal Due**  Workshop |
| 5/2 | Revisions/Portfolio Due |

# **Grade Distribution**

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| --- | --- |
| Free Poems | 30% |
| Exercises | 20% |
| Journals | 20% |
| Portfolio/Revisions | 10% |
| Participation/Attendance | 20% |

### Participation/Attendance Rubric

No absences 100%

1 absence 95%

2 absences 90%

3 absences 75%

4 absences 50%

5 absences 25%

6 absences 0%

More than 6 absences will result in automatic failure of the course

A particularly ugly phenomenon of college writing workshop is the one in which a student has a poem workshopped in good faith by his or her classmates, only to be absent for the class session following the poem being workshopped. Students who miss the next class session following the discussion of one of their poems will wait at least two full cycles through the rest of the class’ poems before having another poem workshopped.

### Free Poems

Free poems may be in any form, on any topic. Please make certain that all free poems have been composed during the semester. Do not turn in old work. Please proofread your work before turning it in. Poems that exhibit incompetent command of the language might not be included on the worksheet, discussed, or counted toward course requirements. Free Poems that are turned in within the acceptable “late” time period will receive partial credit but might not be included in a worksheet for discussion. When turning in poems, please try to use Courier, 12 pt.

**Exercises**

Some poem assignments will be in the form of exercises guided by the instructor. For full credit, exercises must make a good faith attempt to complete the assignment. Exercises that are turned in within the acceptable “late” time period will receive partial credit but might not be included in a worksheet for discussion. When turning in poems, please try to use Courier, 12 pt.

**Late Work**Late poems and/or exercises may not be included in the worksheet for discussion. I will make no effort to get a “late” poem discussed in class.

### Reading Journals

Each student will do commentary on **Best American Poetry**. For each journal assignment, students will be expected to write a one page response to a poem or issue in the book.

This is a good opportunity to practice your skills in using terms and strategies for discussing literature. It is also a good opportunity for beginning workshop students to hone their “constructive criticism” language.

Some suggested journal approaches

* Paraphrase a poem.
* Explain the meaning of a poem.
* Examine the theme, tone, intentions, and/or diction of a poem.
* Explain why you like or dislike a poem.
* Argue a poem’s merits for discussion in class. Why should we or shouldn’t we cover the poem in class discussion?
* Does the poem remind you of something in your life? How? Why?
* Does the poem remind you of anything you’ve read, seen, or experienced before?
* Write about a particular theme, technique or quirk of poet.

As long as you do an earnest response to each poem, meet length requirements, and use standard grammatical English, the score will be 100%. Students might lose points for short or superficial responses or responses that don’t demonstrate honest attempts to deal with the book effectively. Students will also lose points for journal entries that do not exhibit command of written English.

**Remember, there is no wrong way to do a journal entry as long as a good attempt is made.**

**Length**:Each journal entry will be one page typed in MLA format.

Classroom Policies

Student Contract

Geoffrey Woolf

**I have read the classroom policies for this course, and I understand them.**

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Signature Date

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Print Name