

ENGL F376: Intermediate Creative Writing: Poetry

Instructor: Sean Hill
Office: 846
Office phone: 907-474-6455

E-mail: seanhill73@gmail.com
Office hours: Daily 12-1
Mailbox: TBA

Note: The syllabus is subject to changes as announced in class and on Blackboard.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Writing Poems by Boisseau, Bar-Nadav, and Wallace
Wind in a Box by Terrance Hayes
Native Guard by Natasha Trethewey
Approaching Ice by Elizabeth Bradfield
A Murmuration of Starlings by Jake Adam York

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXTS: A good dictionary and a thesaurus

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From Catalog: Forms and techniques of poetry. Students' work read and discussed in class and in conference with the instructor. Close study of the techniques of established writers. ENGL F111X; ENGL F211X or ENGL F213X; ENGL F271; or permission of instructor. (3+0)

The goal of this course is to further develop students' knowledge of the art and craft of poetry and to raise their level of sophistication when engaging poetry. In this course students will analyze published poems for specific strategies and discuss the ways the poet uses these various techniques to establish motivation and emotional depth, and create linguistic music. Following thorough discussions in class, students will write poems that are modeled after or inspired by the poets we have been discussed.

Goals: Objectives of the teacher.

- A. Reinforce students' understanding of the elements of poetic craft.
- B. Analyze and model various writing techniques used by poets.
- C. Introduce a range of writing assignments that represents conventions and innovations within poetry.

Student Learning Outcomes: Activities the students do in order to achieve mastery.

- A. Articulate stylistic features, rhetorical conventions, and innovations in poetry.
- B. Imitate writing techniques and begin to develop writing skills in poetry.
- C. Write a range of texts that demonstrate knowledge of poetry, its conventions, and its innovations.

CLASS POLICIES:

Class Participation: You must be ready to share your ideas and insights on all the assigned readings. And because you'll be getting feedback and comments from your classmates on your poems, this also means you need to come to class prepared to make respectful yet rigorous criticisms of the work presented in workshop.

Student Attendance:

Student grades are based on class participation and completion of assignments by end of course.

- Full and prompt attendance and active participation in original and revised writing assignments, writing exercises, class discussions, and reading assignments for the entire session ensures a passing grade.
- Regular, reliable attendance and participation in original and revised writing assignments, writing exercises, class discussions, and reading assignments for the entire session allows a passing grade.

Grading:

40% Poems (10 @ 4% each)

30% Quizzes (6 @ 5% each)

10% Poem critiques

10% Word Bank

10% Final revised Poem

This course will not be graded on a curve. Grading will follow UAF guidelines, and plus/minus grading will be used within the following ranges:

- A = An honor grade, indicates originality and independent work, a thorough mastery of the subject, and the satisfactory completion of more work than is regularly required (for example out of a possible 100 points, 90 points, or above)
- B = Indicates outstanding ability above the average level of performance (89-80)
- C = Indicates a satisfactory or average level of performance (79-70).
- D = The lowest passing grade, indicates work of below average quality and performance (69-60).
- F = Indicates failure to meet lowest standards (below 59 points).

UAF uses a plus/minus letter grade system.

A+ = 100-98 B+ = 89-87 C+ = 79-77 D+ = 69-67 F = 59-0

A = 97-94 B = 89-84 C = 76-74 D = 66-64

A- = 93-90 B- = 83-80 C- = 73-70 D- = 63-60

Class Atmosphere and Safety: We will discuss ideas and writing as a class, in small groups, and one-on-one. **All opinions are respected in this class.** Students will be mindful of their classmates' feelings when commenting on each other's opinions. **You may disagree with each other, and with me, as long as it is done in an atmosphere of**

mutual respect. Use of **electronic devices** such as laptops, music players/headphones, cell phones and the like distracts from our class focus and is therefore not allowed unless approved by the instructor. Cell phones must be kept silent. **Texting** in class is disrespectful and distracting and **will not be tolerated.**

WRITTEN WORK: [add number and percentages]

1. Poems: due to the workshop for the term (10@ 4% each). **Worth a total of 40% of your class assignment grade.**
2. Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes (@ 6% each). **Worth a total of 30% of your class assignment grade.**
3. Word Bank: There will be 10 (@ 1% each) **Worth a total of 10% of your class assignment grade.**
4. Poem Critiques: Five sentences minimum of thoughtful critique per assigned workshop poems. **Worth a total of 10% of your grade.**
5. End of term: A single thoughtfully revised poem, all of your drafts of that poem, and a one-page minimum reflective essay about your revision process in Google Drive folder shared with me. **This is due at the end of the term and is worth a total of 10% of your course grade.**

1. Quizzes: There will be occasional quizzes covering poetic terminology and other material we discuss in class or taken from our reading.

2. Ongoing Vocabulary Lists/Word Bank: For ten class meetings, you must look up and write out the correct definition(s) for two unfamiliar words—at least one from the reading for this class or from the subject list I give you. For the reading assignments from this class include the title of the source and the page number, if applicable, where the word occurs along with the definition.

- To earn full points, you must use the definition that is correct for the context of the word in the source. For example, “partial” has two different meanings depending on the context of the sentence in which it’s used.
- To earn points, you must look up words that are not basic vocabulary. For example, definitions of friend, working, telephone, or elephant will earn no points.
- Each vocabulary word is worth five points, for a total of 100 points by the end of the semester.

UAF SPONSORED READINGS: Please plan to attend as many UAF readings this semester as possible. For every two readings you attend you will receive **extra credit** equivalent to one reading response. You will be able to find the schedule for the Midnight Sun Visiting Writers Series at this website—<http://www.alaska.edu/english/mfa/visitwriter/this-years-schedule/index.xml>.

University Resources

The Writing Center: 8th Floor Gruening – <http://www.alaska.edu/english/writing-center/>

The Writing Center is a resource of the English Department that offers free tutoring and feedback on your writing projects in any discipline. Tutorial sessions are by appointment, or you may see a tutor as a walk-in. The center has a computer lab with free printing up to 25 pages per visit. Phone: 907-474-5314.

Hours: Mon – Thur 10 am – 4 pm, 7 pm – 10 pm

Fri 10 am – 1 pm and Sun 1 pm – 6 pm

Disability Services:

UAF is committed to equal opportunity for students with disabilities. If you have a disability, which might affect your ability to succeed in this course, please see me so we may discuss accommodations. You are also encouraged to contact Mary Matthews the Director of Disability Services at 907-474-5655.

Veterans' Services:

UAF is committed to veterans and has a range of staff specially trained to address the specific needs and concerns of veterans. Please visit this website:

<http://www.uaf.edu/veterans/>.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week One

Sep 4 Introduction to Course: Get to know each activities, Expert/Authority language talk

Week Two

Sep 9 Reading: Writing Poems: “Starting Out” pp 1-19

Sep 11 Reading: Writing Poems: “Subject Matter” pp 97-116

Sep 12 Deadline for adding classes, late registration and fee payment;
5 p.m. in person, midnight at [UAOnline](#)

Week Three

Sep 16 Assignment Due 1 pages 15-16 # 1 and 2, 3, or 4

Sep 18 Reading: Writing Poems: “The Sound (And Look) of Sense” pp 77-94

Sep 19 Deadline for 100 percent refund of tuition and fees
Deadline for student- and faculty-initiated drops
(course does not appear on academic record)

Week Four

Sep 23 Assignment Due 2 pages 90-91 # 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5

Conferences Group 1

Sep 25 Reading: Writing Poems: "Metaphor" pp 117-136

Week Five

Sep 30 Assignment Due 3 pages 131-132 # 1, 2, 3, or 4

Conferences Group 2

Oct 2 Reading: Writing Poems: "Making the Line (I)" pp 41-58

Week Six

Oct 7 Assignment Due 4 pages 53-55 # 2, 4, or 5

Oct 9 Reading: Writing Poems: "Tale, Tell, and Tone" pp 137-157

Week Seven

Oct 14 Assignment Due 5 pages 152 # 1, 2, 3, or 4

Conferences Group 1

Oct 16 Reading: Writing Poems: "The Mysteries of Language" pp 158-176

Week Eight

Oct 21 Assignment Due 6 pages 172-173 # 2, 3, 4, or 5

Conferences Group 2

Oct 23 Reading: Writing Poems: "Finding the Poem" pp 179-200

Week Nine

Oct 28 Assignment Due 7 pages 194-195 # 2, 3, 4, or 5

Oct 30 Reading: Writing Poems: "Devising and Revising" pp 201-218

Oct 31 Deadline for student- and faculty-initiated withdrawals
(W grade appears on academic record)

Week Ten

Nov 4 Assignment Due 8 pages 212-213 # 1, 2, 3, or 4

Nov 6 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 1 Due

Week Eleven

Nov 11 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 1 Due

Nov 13 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 2 Due

Week Twelve

Nov 18 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 2 Due
Nov 20 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 3 Due

Week Thirteen

Nov 25 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 3 Due
Nov 27 – 30 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS**

Week Fourteen

Dec 2 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 4 Due
Dec 4 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 4 Due

Week Fifteen

Dec 9 Workshop & Group 1 Poem 5 Due
Dec 11 Workshop & Group 2 Poem 5 Due
 Class Poet Anthology / Last Day of Class

FINAL REVISION PORTFOLIOS DUE THURSDAY DEC. 11

FINAL EXAM PERIOD TUESDAY, DEC. 16 AT 3:15 – 5:15