

Fall 8-15-2016

ENG 3062-001: Intermediate Poetry Writing

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ENGLISH 3062

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Office Hours: T 2-4, R 3-4, F 11-1
and by appointment

I. **TEXTS:**

Open Roads [OR]

The Norton Anthology of Contemporary Poetry (NOR,V2)

Outsiders: Poems About Rebels, Exiles, and Renegades (OUT)

Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry (UA)

II. **ASSIGNMENTS** (with appropriate grade % for each):

1. **Portfolio:** A **manuscript** consisting of the various drafts, including the very first one and especially the final, finished draft, of **10 poems** you will have worked on during the semester. The different drafts will enable me to evaluate the progress you have made for each poem. Many of these we will discuss in a workshop format in class. Due **December 8**. (40%)
 2. **Journals.** This will be a log of your responses to the poems you will be reading throughout the semester from the course texts. At the **top of the page** you must write the **POEM'S TITLE, WRITER'S NAME, TEXT NAME, and PAGE#**. For each poem, you will first write your initial thoughts/reactions/feelings and then reflect more fully on what inspired your response by looking at the poem more closely. What words are especially concrete or tangible? Do the line and stanza breaks enable the poem to express its point, images, etc, in a more powerful way? Does the poem sound or look a certain way which appeals to you? Why did you pick this poem? What do you think it is trying to say? In this journal, you are studying other writers' poems to understand better what makes poetry work well. By being a more careful **reader** of poetry, you will become a better **writer** of poetry, and will also be able to edit your poems with a more objective eye. The **journal will be collected 3 times** during the semester, and a final grade will be given at the end. (30%)
 4. **Participation:** The main focus of this class is **your** poetry. We will spend most of the semester discussing and critiquing your poems in a workshop format. Therefore, your response to one another's poems is a crucial part of class. As each other's audience, you **must** provide feedback for the poems presented in class. You will also need to provide copies for the class of the poem you will workshop. (30%)
- ### III. **COURSE PURPOSE:**
- We will begin the class by examining poems written by published modern and contemporary poets in order to learn how to discuss a poem and to develop a sense of what makes a poem good according to contemporary standards. For example, we will talk about **voice** and **point of view, rhythm, images, stanzas, line breaks**. Then we will turn our attention to poems written by you and examine them in the same way. So, the purpose of the class is to help you become a better writer of poems by reading the works of established poets and understanding what makes their poems successful or not, by giving you exercises that make you write specific poems to help you understand **what to avoid doing** in a poem (such as rhyming, preaching, generalizing, using abstract language or clichés) and **what makes a poem work** (such as **showing rather than telling**, specific experiences conveyed with concrete images).

IV. **ATTENDANCE**: If you don't come to class, there basically is no class, since class is about your writing and your comments about your classmates' writing. **Having more than 3 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN A FAILING PARTICIPATION GRADE.**

V. **LATE WORK**: All assignments are due on the dates specified. Lateness will result in a lower grade. If you cannot complete an assignment on time, you must see me **before** it is due.

VI. **FINAL NOTE**:

- 1) If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disabilities Services (6583) as soon as possible.
- 2) Academic integrity—Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct. (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.
- 3) The Student Success Center—Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (<http://www.eiu.edu/~success>) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Course Calendar:

- Aug. 23 Introduction; Class setup
 25 Carpenter: "Rain" (xerox); Forché: "Taking Off My Clothes" p.916 [NOR,V,2]
 Martelli: "Mal'Occhio" p.174; Cox: "The Barbells of the Gods" p.56 [OUT]; 1-3,7-8 [OR]
- Sept 30 Shange: "From Okra to Greens"[UA]; Atwood: "Variations on the Word *Love*" (xerox)
 1 workshop
 6 workshop
 8 workshop
 13 workshop
 15 workshop
 20 workshop
 22 writing exercise; JOURNALS DUE (5 poems)
 27 workshop
 29 workshop
- Oct. 4 workshop
 6 workshop
 11 workshop
 13 workshop
 18 writing exercise
 20 workshop
 25 workshop
 27 workshop; JOURNALS DUE (5 poems)
- Nov 1 workshop
 3 workshop
 8 writing exercise
 10 workshop
 15 workshop
 17 workshop
 22 Thanksgiving Break
 24 Thanksgiving Break
 29 workshop
- Dec 1 workshop; JOURNALS DUE (4 poems)
 6 workshop
 8 PORTFOLIOS DUE