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ENG 2003-001: Creative Writing: Poetry

David Radavich
Eastern Illinois University

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English 2003: Creative Writing: Poetry

Instructor: Dr. David Radavich
Office: 3785 Coleman Hall
Telephone: 581-6971 (Office) or 345-9280 (Home)

Required Texts:

Bugeja, Michael J., *The Art and Craft of Poetry*

PURPOSE. English 2003 is an introduction to writing poetry. You will be encouraged to develop your creative expression, giving form to thoughts and feelings which arise out of yourself and making these experiences meaningful to others. You do not need to be a budding Shakespeare to do well in this course. Rather, you will be graded on your growth in imaginative expression and on your commitment to sharing sensitively and intelligently with others about your and their writing. You will learn some of the techniques of poetry "from the inside." In this course, we will be seeking to create a climate that is supportive and encouraging yet at the same time allows for pointing out shortcomings and directions for future growth. **YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO HAVE A COMMAND OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND USAGE IN ALL YOUR WRITING.**

ASSIGNMENTS. We will read and discuss a wide range of poetry, examining how masters of the form have used language in their own ways to convey thoughts and feelings. Over the semester, you will write roughly a dozen poems, a number of which you will present to the class and revise. We will discuss as many of these works as time permits. A midterm exam will cover basic terms and poetic concepts. There will be no final exam: at semester's end, you will submit a portfolio of your best 6-8 revised poems and an analytic essay of 4-6 pages (double-spaced) on a living poet included in our reader whose work you especially feel attracted to or interested in.

GRADING. The grading for this course will be divided into thirds. **ONE THIRD** of your grade will be determined by your participation in class discussion and critique sessions of student work and works printed in the text. Also included in this portion will be an assessment of your progress and commitment during the semester, as well as quizzes and extra-credit assignments. The **SECOND THIRD** of your grade will be made up of writing assignments throughout the term, with the midterm exam counting **three** weekly assignments. The **FINAL THIRD** will consist of the portfolio which you will turn in by 5 p.m. on the day scheduled for the final exam. This portfolio will represent your best, most polished work and will serve as the final exam.

LATE WORK. Assignments turned in late will be penalized one-third grade **PER CALENDAR DAY** late. If you know in advance that you will encounter difficulties in meeting a particular deadline, talk to me beforehand. Missed in-class assignments cannot be made up; that is the reward for coming to class regularly.

ATTENDANCE POLICY. You are assumed to be professionals-in-training and are expected to attend class regularly as you would show up for work on the job. The attendance policy for the course will operate as follows: you may miss up to one week of class without penalty; this allows you flexibility in case of illness or unexpected emergency. Thereafter, the course grade will be lowered proportionately for each week missed. If you are absent more than four weeks of class, you will automatically receive an F in the course.

PLAGIARISM. According to University policy,

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism - "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*) - has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of **F** for the course.

DISABILITY SERVICES. If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

PARTICIPATION. In this course, everyone must read and discuss both the assignments in the text and the writings of fellow students. One third of your grade will be determined by your attendance, active discussion, and participation in readings of poetry.

CONFERENCES. Please feel free to consult me regarding ideas, planning, problems, revision, etc. I would be happy to meet with you at any mutually convenient time.

English 2003 Assignments

- Aug. 22 - Introduction
24 - The Narrative Poem (ch. 14)
26 - Discussion
- Aug. 29 - The Lyric Poem (ch. 15)
31 - Discussion
- Sept. 2 - Poem #1 due
- Sept. 5 - No class; Labor Day
7 - Voice (ch. 8)
9 - Poem #2 due
- Sept. 12 - The Line (ch. 9)
14 - Discussion
16 - Poem #3 due; Revision #1 due
- Sept. 19 - Gary Gildner Visit and Reading
21 - Discussion
23 - Poem #4 due
- Sept. 26 - Stanza (ch. 10)
28 - Discussion
30 - Poem #5 due; Revision #2 due
- Oct. 3 - Meter (ch. 12)
5 - Poem #6 due
7 - No class; Fall Break
- Oct. 10 - Rhyme (ch. 13)
12 - Discussion
14 - Poem #7 due; Revision #3 due
- Oct. 17 - The Sonnet (ch. 18)
19 - Discussion
21 - MIDTERM EXAM

- Oct. 24 - Free Verse (ch. 17)
26 - Discussion
28 - Poem #8 due
- Oct. 31 - Love Poetry (ch. 2)
Nov. 2 - Discussion
4 - Poem #9 due; Revision #4 due
- Nov. 7 - Nature Poetry (ch. 3)
9 - Discussion
11 - Poem #10 due
- Nov. 14 - The Dramatic Poem (ch. 16)
16 - Performance
18 - Poem #11 due; Revision #5 due
- Nov. 21 & 23 - No class; Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28 - War Poetry (ch. 5)
30 - Discussion
- Dec. 2 - Poem #12 due
- Dec. 5 - Readings
7 - "
9 - "

No Final Exam; portfolio due by 5 p.m. on day scheduled for the final exam