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ENG 4762-001: Poetry Writing

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English 4762-001: Poetry Writing

Dr. Miho Nonaka
Time: 1-1:50 p.m. MWF       Class Location: 3159 Coleman Hall
Office: 3821 Coleman Hall   Phone: 581-6972       Email: mnonaka@eiu.edu
Office Hours: MW 3:30-5 p.m., F 11 a.m.-12 p.m., and by appointment

Course Description:
This course is an advanced poetry workshop. The main activity of this course will be reading and discussing the works of professional poets and your peers. The focus of these workshops will be establishing your own unique voice while experimenting with other styles. The final goal of these workshops is a twenty-page manuscript which will include your own poetic manifesto discussing your voice and the purpose of your poetic undertaking.

Texts:
Glück, Louise, Meadowlands
Hahn, Kimiko, The Narrow Road to the Interior
Hoagland, Tony, Donkey Gospel
Xeroxed handouts and electronic resources

Policies:
* You are expected to attend all classes. If you miss 4 classes, for whatever reason, I will lower your final grade by a letter. There is no excused absence. If you miss 5 or more classes, you will either drop the course or accept an F for the semester.

* I expect you to arrive ready to participate in discussion. Your written comments (must be typed) on your peers' works are also important for your class participation grade.

* If you are absent, you are still responsible for knowing the material and for turning in any assignments for that day. I recommend getting several classmates' phone numbers and email addresses so that you can keep up.

* My email is for questions only; do not email assignments.

* You are responsible for saving copies of any work turned in for grading. You must include the earlier version of each poem in your final manuscript, along with the revised version, in order for me to see the changes.

Assignments:
* Over the semester, we will read and discuss your work; you will prepare both individual poems and a group of poems (a packet) to be workshopped.

* You will be assigned a presentation in which you will choose 1-3 poems by a contemporary poet, provide background about the poem(s) and lead the class in discussion. The poem(s) should have been published in the last 20 years or so, in a book or a nationally recognized literary magazine. This is a way for you to apprentice yourself to a poet working now or in the recent past, and present that poet's work and poetics to the workshop.
At the semester's end, you will submit a manuscript of 20 pages of your best revised poems and poetic manifesto (an ars poetica essay) with previous drafts to show the progress.

**Grading:**
Participation (attendance, having poems ready for the workshops, which means having enough type-written poems for everyone in class, spoken and typed comments on your peers' poems, and the discussion of the assigned readings): 40%
Presentation: 20%
Manuscript: 40%

**Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. I will follow the English Department policy on plagiarism:

"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 own 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 a grade of “F” for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources."

**Students with Disabilities:**
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

**Course Calendar**
This is a tentative schedule, which will evolve as the class progresses. Changes will be announced in class.

**Week 1**
M Jan 8: Introduction
Assignment: Read a packet on poetic manifesto/ars poetica (xerox).

W Jan 10: Discussion
Assignment: Read “Four Temperaments and the Forms of Poetry” by Gregory Orr (xerox).

F Jan 12: Discussion
Assignment: Write your own manifesto (rough draft).

**Week 2**
M Jan 15: No class; M. L. King's Birthday

W Jan 17: Discussion on your manifestos
Assignment: Read Hoagland's Donkey Gospel (pp. 3-23).

F Jan 19: Discussion
Assignment: Read Donkey Gospel (pp. 24-46).
Week 3 (assign workshop groups)
M Jan 22: Discussion; writing exercise
Assignment: Read Donkey Gospel (pp. 47-71).

W Jan 24: Discussion
Assignment: Write a poem in the style of or inspired by Donkey Gospel.

F Jan 26: Discussion; distribute the xeroxed copies of your poems to everyone
Assignment: Read Hahn's The Narrow Road to the Interior (pp. 3-25).

Week 4 (sign up for packet workshops and presentations)
M Jan 29: Workshop

W Jan 31: Workshop

F Feb 2: Workshop
Assignment: Read The Narrow Road (pp. 26-51).