
THE POETIC EXPERIENCE: A WRITING WORKSHOP in Fall 2018 (CL3100)

Course Code	CL3100	Professor(s)	Jacob Samuel Bromberg
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	W: 13:45-16:40 in G-113	Office Hours	Wednesdays, by appointment
Credits	4	Email	jbromberg@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Through writing poetry and analyzing examples, students become familiar with poetic forms and techniques. This workshop, led by a publishing writer, includes weekly peer critique of poems written for the course. Students explore what makes a poem moving, evocative, and imbued with a sense of music, no matter what the approach: lyric, narrative, surreal, or experimental.

Course Learning Outcomes

- To achieve a broad understanding of poetic form and technique.
- To hone writing skills through close attention to each word and line in a poem
- To develop a critical vocabulary and analysis skills
- To understand how sound enhances sense.
- To appreciate the pleasure and power of poetry

General Education

Course Outline

SEPTEMBER

Week I: Wednesday 12th

Beginnings (motivation and inspiration)

September 16th – last day to drop/add courses

Week II: Wednesday 19th

The line break

Reading: Rebecca Hazelton, Gail Mazur, Dean Young

Week III: Wednesday 26th

Baby vs. bathwater

Reading: Elizabeth Bishop, Jack Gilbert

OCTOBER

Week IV: Wednesday 3rd

Choose your next words very carefully

Reading: Li-Young Lee, Elizabeth Alexander, Heather McHugh

Week V: Wednesday 10th

Conjunctions (metaphor, simile, conceit)

Reading: John Donne, Langston Hughes, Maggie Smith

Week VI: Wednesday 17th

Leaps

Reading: Robert Bly, Jane Hirschfield, John Ashbery, Barbara Guest

Week VII: Wednesday 24th

Syntax

Reading: Gerard Manley Hopkins, e.e. cummings

October 26th mid-semester grades due

October 31st – November 4th Fall break, no classes

NOVEMBER

Week VIII: Wednesday 7th

Address

Reading: Allen Ginsberg, Frank O'Hara

November 9th- last day to withdraw or choose credit/no credit option

Week IX: Wednesday 14th

Form, song, and repetition

Reading: Joshua Mehigan, Bob Dylan, Percy Bysshe Shelley

Week X Wednesday 21st

Prose poetry

Reading: Russell Edson, Danez Smith

Week XI Wednesday 28th

High concept

Reading: Kenneth Goldsmith, Aram Saroyan, Jon Woodward, Kay Ryan

DECEMBER

Week XII Wednesday 5th

The social world, the political word

Reading: June Jordan, William Stafford, Jenny Joseph, Jane Hirshfield

Week XIII Wednesday 12th

The feeling of timelessness

Reading: Alice Oswald, Lady Augusta Gregory, T.S. Eliot

Week XIV Wednesday 19th

TBA, no final exam

December 12th, last day of classes

December 13th – 16th reading days

December 17th – 21st Final Exams

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Contact me in advance if you must miss class.

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if

absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Class participation **50%**

Assignments **50%**

One of the most important things one can get from a writing workshop is thoughtful, constructive feedback on work. **It is paramount that all students in this course invest a significant amount of time in reading, thinking about, and commenting on the writings of their peers. Everyone following this course is expected to write comments in the margins of the writing produced by their peers and to conclude with, at the very least, four incisive sentences on each poem. Comments should be both shrewd and considerate, touching on the successes and unresolved challenges of a piece without veering into severity or cloying praise.**

If you miss classes or come in late, you will fail the course. There is nothing worse than failing or giving a lower grade to a student with promising writing. Don't put yourself in this situation. Two consecutive missed classes (i.e., 2 Wednesdays) is an automatic fail. It is at the professor's discretion to judge the gravity of other types of absences. In essence, a student must follow the course. Absences of any kind, for any reason, mean that the student isn't following (or completing) the course.

Other

SUBMITTING WORK:

When you send your weekly submissions by email (to the address above), keep your email to a style that you'd adapt if you were submitting an email to an editor – this will be good training. An email with attached work but with no words by you in the body of the email is therefore unacceptable.

Make sure that your work is in a Word Document. Make sure to put your name and the title of the work at the top of the document.

Save your document like this:

Name_Surname_Assign1

Name_Surname_Assing2

Each week, you will be writing and submitting (unless it's fall break). You will receive an emailed 'Mastercopy' which will contain the work of all students for that week.

Submit your assignment by Wednesday at 9 a.m. to be included in the following week's 'Mastercopy'. Any late work risks not being read or workshopped.

You are expected to have read and made substantial notes on each poem in the 'Mastercopy'. Make sure you have both the poems and your notes with you in class to provide your fellow students with thoughtful feedback.

This Mastercopy can be brought with your to class as a printed hardcopy or accessible through your computer or other device. I allow the use of technology in the class for this reason, and for any in-class writing exercises. Any other use would not be considered appropriate.

Any work submitted should be provided in English.