SYLLABUS, SPRING 2016 -- ENGLISH 408, ADVANCED POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP, TUE. 4:30-6:50, TAPER 105, Professor Muske-Dukes

Course Description:

This course is both a workshop in advanced techniques of poetic writing and a course focusing on readings in “poetry history” as well as contemporary poets’ work. We will discuss original student work as well as our reading list. Student writing will include regular revision – toward the creation of a portfolio of completed writings. Each student will also “present” a poet of his or her choice throughout the semester. There will be a final student poetry reading at the time of portfolio completion. Instructor permission. English 404, 406 recommended.

READING: THE WEATHER OF WORDS, MARK STRAND Individual poems by Ezra Pound, Terrance Hayes, John Keats, Mark Strand, Rita Dove, Yona Harvey, Jane Kenyon, Sylvia Plath, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS re Poetry Readings

FIRST WEEK - Introductions, Instant Bios. Copies, discussion procedure.

Besides reading our regular book/poem assignments, students

will assemble (over the course of the semester) a substantial portfolio

containing all writing assignments from initial attempts to ongoing

revisions to the final version (a “clean” copy). Beyond the focus on

syntax, diction, imagery – other formal elements in creating a

poem will help light the way. We will, finally, emphasize “voice” ,

an “aural” vehicle in delivering the poem. Presentations. Each student

will select a poet to “present” each week. Biography, bibliography,

poems, comments.

Examples, re imitation. “The River Merchant’s

Wife”, Pound (trans. Li Po, “Ars Poetica for Ones Like Us”,

Terrance Hayes. Over course of semester: 4-5 complete poems

SECOND WEEK - Presentation. Voices: “Bright Star”, Keats. Your Choice, Poem: Mark Strand.

Portfolio – begin imitations, keep all revisions, final version

THIRD WEEK - Presentation -- Voices: “The River Merchant’s Wife”, Ezra Pound, Jane Kenyon, “Let Evening Come”

FOURTH WEEK: Presentation -- “Ars Poetica for Ones Like Us”, Terrance Hayes,

Poem, Yona Harvey

FIFTH WEEK - Presentation – V - William Dunbar, “Lament for the Makers” (“Timor Mortis Conturbat Me”), D.A. Powell, “Clutch & Pumps”

SIXTH WEEK - Presentation. William Shakespeare, “Sonnet 116”, “ Jane Mead, “And there’s the rattler’s buzz…” (from Money, Water)

SEVENTH WEEK - Presentation. Elizabeth Bishop, “One Art”, Donald Hall, “The Names of Horses”

EIGHTH WEEK – Presentation. Thomas Hardy, “During Wind and Rain”, Sylvia Plath, “Black Rook in Rainy Weather”

NINTH WEEK - Presentation. Wallace Stevens, “The Emperor of Ice Cream”, Robert Hass, “Elegy”

TENTH WEEK – Presentation. Sappho, “Some Say”, Robert Hayden, “Those Winter Sundays”

ELEVENTH WEEK - Presentation. Robert Lowell, “Skunk Hour”, Carolyn Kizer, “Tu Fu, Translation”

TWELFTH WEEK- Presentation. Catullus, “My love, her Sparrow”, Tony Hoaglund, “What Narcissism Means to Me”

THIRTEENTH WEEK - Presentation. W.H. Auden, “In Memory of W.B. Yeats”, Donald Hall, “The Names of Horses”

FOURTEENTH WEEK - Presentation. Emily Dickinson, “After Great Pain, a Formal Feeling Comes”, Patrciia Lockwood, “In Need of a Pen”

FIFTEENTH WEEK – William Carlos Williams, “This is Just to Say”, Gwendolyn

Brooks, “We Real Cool” –(Golden Shovel)

PORTFOLIOS DUE, semester’s end -- My office, Taper Hall 409, 213 740 2808

Grades based on reading, revision, portfolio (40%), class participation, assignments.

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage [sarc@usc.edu](mailto:sarc@usc.edu) describes reporting options and other resources.

## **Support Systems**

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* <http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html>provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* [*http://emergency.usc.edu/*](http://emergency.usc.edu/)will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.