POETRY WRITING 304, FALL 2017 (SYLLABUS) Mondays 2-4:20, Molly Bendall

Objectives: To learn and exercise skills in poetry writing and to study and analyze many examples of poems by well-known poets. Also to develop and hone critical skills in a workshop format.

Aug 20- Introduction to reading and discussing poetry. And in class exercise. Discuss class requirements and texts.

Aug 27- POEM DUE (on a childhood memory) Discuss reading assignment #1 and textures of language, voice, tone, and imagery.

Sept 3 LABOR DAY

Sept 10 Workshop with CRITIQUES DUE.

Sept 17 CONT. Workshop with critiques. PLUS in class exercise and listening to audio of poets WITH Discussion.

Sept 24 Discuss Reading Assignment #2. (Forms—sestinas, villanelles, pantoums, abecedarians. We will also discuss meter and scansion.

Oct 1 POEMS DUE (choose 2 forms) Discuss Reading Assignment #3 “Misbehaving” poems With spontaneity, surrealism, and word play, and begin Jackson Burgess’ Atrophy

Oct 8 Workshop with Critiques Due. Reading Assignment #4 some of Jackson Burgess’ Atrophy.

Oct 15-Class VISIT with Jackson Burgess

Oct 22 Cont WORKSHOP forms. Critiques DUE. POEM DUE (Misbehaving Poem)

Oct 29 Workshop misbehaving poems.

Nov 5 cont. Workshop. Discuss Reading Assignment #5 Litanies, chants and incantatory poems.

Nov 12 POEM DUE (your choice) In Class exercise.

Nov 19—Workshop

Nov 27- Cont. Workshop. and FINAL PORTFOLIO DUE includes extra poem and revisions.
**Reading Assignment #1**—In Mayes handbook read Chapters 2 & 3, and Philip Levine’s “Starlight” p. 275, Theodore Roethke’s “My Papa’s Waltz” p. 241, plus handouts with Anita Endrezze, Lynn Emanuel, Alberto Rios, Thomas Lux, Li Young Lee


**Reading Assignment #3- 5** handout with Frank O’Hara, James Tate, Mary Ruefle, Harryette Mullen, and other “misbehaving” poems.

**Reading Assignment #4** Jackson Burgess *Atrophy*


**CLASS POLICIES AND GRADING CRITERIA**
- 6 poems due.
- All work must be typed with guidelines followed.
- All work must be handed in ON TIME with copies made.
- Participation in class discussions is mandatory.
- MUST HAVE THE TEXTS FROM WHICH WE ARE READING IN CLASS.
- If you ARE ABSENT during a discussion of reading, write a 2 page RESPONSE pick up poems.
- Written critiques and responses to reading when asked are REQUIRED.
- DO NOT SEND poems or written work over e-mail, Please hand in hard copy.

**GRADING**
40% Poems with Portfolio
30% Written Critiques
30% Class Participation, preparedness, and Written Responses on Reading

**TEXTS REQUIRED**
Frances Mayes *Field Guide to Poetry* (handbook and anthology)
Jackson Burgess *Atrophy*

Office Hours- Wed 2-3:30pm or by appt. bendall@usc.edu