ENG 465: ADVANCED POETRY WORKSHOP  Winter 2014

Professor Katharine Whitcomb  Office: 408 B Lang
Class Time: Tues 3:00-6:20 p.m.  Office Hours: T WTh 10-11 & by appt
Location: Lang 358  Phone: 963-1530
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Required Texts:

Diane Lockward  The Crafty Poet: A Portable Workshop
Sherman Alexie  Face
Karen Finneyfrock  Ceremony for the Choking Ghost
Derek Sheffield  Through the Second Skin
C.D. Wright  One With Others

Poems written by you and your classmates serve as an integral text for this class.

Course Description:

Hello poets! Welcome to poetry writing workshop. The important focus of this class is the writing workshop, where we discuss your poems and those of your peers. We will be honing, practicing and learning the most helpful ways to approach creative work.

In addition to your own poetry, we will be looking closely at poems by a group of contemporary poets---brilliant, varied voices in the poetry world. We’ll be examining craft, form, voice, style and considering the choices they made while writing these books. Ultimately you can use their examples as jumping off points for possibilities in your own work.

We will be practicing techniques and experimenting with form, occasion, and various poetic techniques and experiments using The Crafty Poet for exercises and poem assignments.

You'll each get a chance to lead the class as part of a team in a detailed discussion of a poem from our reading, and to express your critical writer’s opinion in a review-style paper.

We will have two required readings for you to attend this quarter. Those days we will have special shorter class periods, during which the poet will visit our class, then after a break you will attend the reading.

I look forward to working with each of you.
Requirements:

Attendance at every class, and one required conference.

Required attendance at two poetry readings outside of class.

Oral presentation and discussion leadership on a selected poem from our texts (sign up).

5-page review-style paper on one of the poetry books read in class.

Active participation in writing workshop---see schedule when poems are due.

Written and verbal comments on your workshop peers’ poetry.

All weekly assignments, exercises and deadlines.

Photocopies of all workshop assignments for class. Plan to bring a copy for each person in the class and a copy for me in addition to your original. Also please submit all of your completed assignments, including poems, on Canvas.

Please remember to bring your textbook, The Crafty Poet, and the book we are actively reading to every class. Remember to bring all relevant workshop material and handouts.

Major Projects and Grading:

Oral presentation and discussion leader 15% of grade

5-page paper 20% of grade

Homework (exercises, poems and assignments turned in on time and done correctly) 20% of grade

Participation (written comments on your peers’ work, verbal comments in class and in workshop, and attendance) 10% of grade

poetry reading attendance and reading reviews 10% of grade

Final poetry portfolio 25% of grade
(6 workshop poems, 1 poem developed from an in-class exercise, and revisions)
There will be NO acceptance of late exercises or assignments. These will be counted as missing. If you have to miss a class, turn in your workshop material and assignments beforehand to me, or have someone in the class bring them in for you. Make sure to call or email me if you are sick BEFORE you miss class, so that you will not be marked absent. If at any time you would like to discuss your progress in the course with me, please come to my office hours or arrange an appointment.

**Attendance is required. You are allowed one absence without penalty, but each additional absence will lower your grade. Failure to attend three class periods or more may result in failure of the course.** Absence at a required conference or at the reading will be counted the same as a missed class. Please come to class, come on time, and come prepared. I will be keeping track of late arrivals—they will hurt your grade and disrupt the class. If you are late, assume you’ve been marked absent until you talk to me.

Late assignments. Please check the syllabus for deadlines. Please keep up with the reading and workshop assignments. Late exercises, workshop poems, and portfolios will not be accepted.

**Manuscript format and workshop copies:** All writing assignments, including exercises and homework, must be typed. Include your name on all your assignments and PROOFREAD your work. Use 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Staple your work if there are multiple pages.

When copies are required for workshop, students should make enough copies for everyone in the class, including themselves, and two copies for me. If we have 15 people in the class, then you should make 16 copies and keep your original. Copies are due at the beginning of the class *before* they are to be discussed in workshop.

**NOTES:**

The grades in this class are weighted by percentage. To figure your grade by the number of points given an assignment on Canvas will not be accurate. It is important not to skip assignments if you want to get a good grade.

I do not grade poems or exercises turned in during the quarter; however, I will be writing comments on all your work. Your poems will only be graded in your final portfolio after you have presented them in workshop and worked on revising them. Revision is the most important learning process in this class.

The 5-page paper is to be approached as an opportunity for you, as a poet, to write about contemporary poetry, with an emphasis on the craft of the writer and the structure of the book.

The oral presentations/discussion-leading session on the poems for which you have signed up should take approximately 20 minutes and should include questions for the class meant to generate discussion.
Please familiarize yourself with this class on Blackboard. All documents are posted.

All instances of academic dishonesty or plagiarism in this class will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize a paper, you will fail the class and be reported. We are only interested in NEW WORK, which you have written for THIS CLASS.

"Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give me a copy of their “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” from the disability Support Services Office as soon as possible so we can meet to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students with disabilities without this form should contact the Disability Support Services Office, Bouillon 205 or dssrecept@cwu.edu or 963-2171 immediately."
CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:
This syllabus is subject to change; changes will be announced in class and/or via email.

All class meetings are on Tues., 3:00-6:20 p.m. Our craft book on poetry writing, The Crafty Poet by Diane Lockward, is referred to below as Crafty.

Attendance at Karen Finneyfrock’s reading on 1/28 is required—Derek Sheffield’s reading on 2/11 is also required.

1/7/14  
*Introduction*
- Review syllabus and schedule.
- Sign-ups.
- Exercises.
- Discuss presentations.

1/14/14  
*Read for discussion:* Face (pgs. 1-88) by Sherman Alexie and read Parts I: Generating Material/Using Time and II: Diction (pages 1-46) in *Crafty* (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

- Student presentation on Sherman Alexie poem.
- Postcard Exercise: American Sentences.

Due: Bring 8 copies for workshop from an exercise in Part I or Part II, (pages 1-46) of *Crafty* AND post in Canvas.

1/21/14  

- Student presentation on Karen Finneyfrock poem.
- Untranslatable words exercise.

- Workshop discussion of Part I and Part II poems.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part IV: Voice (pages 85-109) of *Crafty.*

Karen Finneyfrock class visit (3:00-4:30). Please be prepared with questions for her.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part III: Voice (pages 59-82) of *Crafty*.

OPEN MIC POETRY SLAM in the SURC (4:30-5:30 p.m.)—winner will perform a poem before the Karen Finneyfrock performance. Details TBA.

KAREN FINNEYFROCK READING—REQUIRED. 7:30 P.M. SURC THEATRE.

2/4/14  Read for discussion: *Through the Second Skin* by Derek Sheffield (whole book) and read Part V: Imagery/Figurative Language (pages 113-138) in *Crafty* (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentation on Derek Sheffield poem.

Geospatial poetry exercise.

Workshop discussion of poems from Part III and Part IV (two poems each).

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part V: Imagery/Figurative Language (pages 113-138) of *Crafty*.

Due: Reading Reviews for Karen Finneyfrock.

2/11/14  Read for discussion: Review for class *Through a Second Skin* (whole book) by Derek Sheffield and read Part VI: Going Deep/Adding Layers (pages 141-164) in *Crafty* (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Derek Sheffield class visit (3:00-4:30). Please be prepared with questions for him.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part VI: Going Deep/Adding Layers (pages 141-164) of *Crafty*.

DARWIN WEEK discussion in the SURC (4:30-5:30 p.m.) featuring Derek Sheffield. Details TBA.

DEREK SHEFFIELD READING—REQUIRED. 7:30 P.M. WILDCAT SHOP.
2/13/14  BOB HICOK READING—SAL, SEATTLE. Carpool to reading for interested people!

2/18/14  Read for discussion: One With Others by C.D. Wright (whole book), and read Part VII: Syntax (pages 167-184) in Crafty (choosing a different exercise than last week for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on C.D. Wright book section.

My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me—the re-invented fairy tale.

5-page paper guidelines.

Workshop discussion of poems from Part V and Part VI (two poems each).

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part VII: Syntax (pages 167-184) of Crafty.

Due: Reading Reviews for Derek Sheffield.

2/25/14  Read for discussion: Review One Among Others by C.D. Wright (whole book), and read Part VIII: Line/Stanza (pages 187-204) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on C.D. Wright book section.

The verse novel.

Workshop discussion of poems from Part VII: Syntax (pages 67-184)

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part VIII: Line/Stanza (pages 187-204) of Crafty.

3/4/14  Read for discussion: Face by Sherman Alexie, Parts 3 & 4 (pages 89-159), and read Part IX: Revision (pages 207-228) in Crafty (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on Sherman Alexie poem.

Portfolio Guidelines.

Sign up for Revision Conferences.

Due: Part IX: Revision (pages 207-228) poem for workshop. Bring copies of a poem you already turned in for workshop and a revision of it using the suggestions in this chapter.

3/11/14

Read for discussion: Part X: Writer’s Block/Recycling (pages 231-246) in Crafty (choosing one to complete and share).

Student Presentation on Sherman Alexie poem.

Portfolio Guidelines Review.

Due: 5-page papers on one of the books from this quarter (see guidelines) and Part X poem to share.

Portfolios due during exam week—date to follow.