ENG 465: ADVANCED POETRY WORKSHOP      Spring 2012

Professor Katharine Whitcomb                  Office: 408 B Lang
Class Time: Wed 3:00-6:20 p.m.               Office Hours: T 1-3 W 1-2 & by appt
Location: 415 Lang                            Phone: 963-1530
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Required Texts:

Kim Addonizio                                Ordinary Genius: A Guide for the Poet Within
Nick Flynn                                    Some Ether: Poem
Ted Kooser                                    Delights & Shadows
Tracy K. Smith                                Life on Mars
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 Ordinary Genius 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 spaper.

We are lucky to have two important poetry events happening on campus this quarter: Poet Laureate Ted Kooser and the Geospatial Poetry Celebration. We’ll use those readings as inspiration for discussion and writing.

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 Blackboard.

Please remember to bring your textbook, Ordinary Genius, 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 Blackboard 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 Wed., 3:00-6:20 p.m. Our craft book on poetry writing, Ordinary Genius by Kim Addonizio, is referred to below as Genius.

Attendance at Ted Kooser’s reading on 4/15 is required—the Geospatial Celebration reading on 5/7 is also required. Your attendance at the Brian Doyle reading on 4/9 and the Daniel Orozco reading on 5/14 will earn you extra credit.

3/28/12  
Introduction
Review syllabus and schedule.
Sign-ups.
Exercises.
Discuss presentations.

4/4/12  
Read for discussion: Delights & Shadows (pgs. 1-42) by Ted Kooser and read Part I: Entering Poetry, Sections 1-5 (pages 1-46) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on Ted Kooser poems.

Postcard Exercise: American Sentences.

Due: 15(?) copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part I, Sections 1-5 (pages 1-46) of Genius.

MONDAY, 4/9/12 BRIAN DOYLE READING SURC THEATRE 7:30 p.m.

4/11/12  
Read for discussion: Delights & Shadows (whole book) by Ted Kooser and read Part I: Entering Poetry Parts 6-10 (pages 55-95) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on Ted Kooser poems.

Untranslatable words exercise.

Workshop discussion of Part I, Sections 1-5, poems.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part I, Sections 6-10 (pages 55-95) of Genius.

REQUIRED READING:
MONDAY, 4/16/12 TED KOOSER READING SURC THEATRE 7:30 p.m.
4/18/12  
*Read for discussion:* Some Ether by Nick Flynn (pgs. 1-41) and read Part II: Inner and Outer Worlds Sections 11-16 (pages 99-134) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on Nick Flynn.

Workshop discussion of Part I, Sections 6-10 poems.

Maps exercise—Geospatial contest—A Place that Used to be Yours

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part I, Sections 11-16 (pages 99-134) of Genius.

4/25/12  
*Read for discussion:* Some Ether by Nick Flynn (whole book) and read Part II: Inner and Outer Worlds Sections 17-21 (pages 145-174) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on Nick Flynn.

Geospatial poets handout.

Workshop discussion of Part II, Sections 11-16 poems.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part II, Sections 17-21 (pages 145-174) of Genius.

5/2/12  
*Read for discussion:* Life On Mars by Tracy K. Smith (pgs. 1-34), Geospatial Poems Handout, and read Part III: The Poem’s Progress Sections 22-27 (pages 175-234) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on Tracy K. Smith.

Workshop discussion of Part II, Sections 17-21 poems.

Contest poems due.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from an exercise in Part III, Sections 22-27 (pages 175-234) of Genius.

**REQUIRED READING:**
MONDAY, 5/7/12 A SENSE OF PLACE CELEBRATION READING SURC THEATRE 7:30 p.m.
5/9/12  Read for discussion: Life On Mars by Tracy K. Smith (whole book), and read Part III: The Poem’s Progress Sections 22-27 (pages 175-234) in Genius (choosing a different exercise than last week for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on Tracy K. Smith.

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

5-page paper guidelines.

Workshop discussion of Part III, Sections 22-27 poems.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from another exercise in Part III, Sections 22-27 (pages 175-234) of Genius.

MONDAY, 5/14/12 DANIEL OROZCO READING SURC THEATRE 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, 5/15/12 MICHAEL AND MATTHEW DICKMAN READING at BENROYA HALL, SEATTLE, CARPOOL FIELD TRIP

5/16/12  Read for discussion: One Among Others by C.D. Wright (whole book), and read Part IV: Toward Mastery Sections 28-36 (pages 235-296) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on C.D. Wright.

The verse novel.

Workshop discussion of Part III, Sections 22-27 poems, Round 2.

Due: Copies of your poem for workshop from another exercise in Part IV, Sections 22-27 (pages 235-296) of Genius.

5/23/12  Read for discussion: Review One Among Others by C.D. Wright (whole book), and read Part IV: Toward Mastery Sections 28-36 (pages 235-296) in Genius (choosing one exercise for your workshop poem).

Student presentations on C.D. Wright.

Portfolio Guidelines.

Sign up for Revision Conferences.

Workshop discussion of Part IV, Sections 28-36 poems.

Due: Part IV, Section 34 (pgs. 273-284) Revision Exercise, bring copies of a poem you already turned in for workshop and a revision of it using the suggestions in this chapter.
5/30/12       Revision Discussion with Part IV, Section 34 Revision Exercise.

                Portfolio Review.

                Due: 5-page papers on one of the books from this quarter (see guidelines).

                Portfolios due during exam week—date to follow.