ENG 365: POETRY WORKSHOP Fall 2015

Instructor: Xavier Cavazos
Office: 225-26 BLACK HALL
Class Time: Wed: 2:00-5:20 p.m. L&L223
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am-10:50am(BLACK 225-26)

Phone: e-mail only please
email: cavazosp@cwu.edu

Required Texts:

Steve Kowit
In the Palm of Your Hand: The Poet’s Portable Workshop.

Poulin & Waters, eds.

Jennifer L. Knox
A Gringo Like Me

Richard Hugo
The Triggering Town

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

Course Description:
Hello poets! Welcome to poetry writing class. The important focus of this class is the writing you produce. 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 poems. Ultimately you can use their examples as jumping off points for possibilities in your own work. You’ll each get a chance to lead the class as part of a team in a detailed discussion of the work of a poet from our anthology, and to articulate your helpful comments during one or two workshops.

Don’t worry if this is your first poetry writing class or if you’ve never shown anyone your poems! Remember— work on your writing gives you confidence and we are all in this together. I look forward to working with each of you.

Requirements:
Attendance at every class,(one absence will hurt your grade) one required conference, and required attendance at all poetry readings and happenings.

Three take-home reading quizzes.

Oral presentation and team discussion leadership on the work of a selected poet from our text (for which you will sign up).

All weekly assignments, exercises and deadlines.

Also please submit all of your completed assignments, including poems, on Canvas.

Please remember to bring all your textbooks to every class.
**Major Projects and Grading:**

- 3 reading quizzes (average score) 20% of grade
- Team-led oral presentation (both students receive the same grade) 10% of grade
- Final poetry portfolio (6 poems and revisions) 25% of grade
- Homework (exercises, poems and assignments turned in on time and done correctly) 25% of grade
- Participation 10% of grade
- Poetry reading attendance and reading review 10% of grade

There will be NO acceptance of late exercises or assignments. These will be counted as missing. 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. 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 assignments. Late exercises, poems, and portfolios will not be accepted. All poems Due Via Canvas Sunday night prior to the new class week. So if class meets on Wednesday afternoon then the poem is due to me on Canvas by Sunday night before the Wednesday class.

**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.

**NOTES:**

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 team-led discussion sessions on the work of a poet you sign up for should take approx. 20 min. and include questions you pose to the class meant to generate feedback.

The assigned poems during the quarter will include:

- a political/social injustice/metaphor poem
- a line break poem
- a poem in form (ghazal, villanelle or sestina)
- a prose poem
- two poems developed from in-class exercises

This syllabus, other materials and announcements will be available on this class' Canvas site. Make sure to sign in.

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.

"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.

9/23/15
Introduction to class. Review syllabus.
Exercise writing lesson.
Sign up for student team presentations.
Saturday- all day- check out BUSKERS downtown
Class reads at 420 building. Time TBA.

9/30/15
Music & Metaphor
Read for discussion: Chap 8 & 9 in Kowit and all poems by Li Young-Lee, and Sharon Olds.
In-class exercises.
Student presentation on Sharon Olds.

**Due the 27th** on Canvas- choice of Poem 12 assignment on pg. 77 in Kowit OR Poem 15, 16 or 17 assignment on Pgs. 85-87 in Kowit.

10/7/15  **Line Breaks and Rhythm**
CLASS MEETS IN The Museum Of Culture and Environment Lobby in Dean Hall at 2pm!

Tuesday night attendance to  
**October 6. 6:30 pm. "We Can't Breathe": Performing Stories of Race and Injustice.** (Organized by Jay Ball and Mindie Dieu, moderated by Keith Champagne; students and others perform real-life encounters with law enforcement.)  Location: SURC ballroom. Draft poem response.

Read for discussion: Chap 21 in Kowit, all poems by Gary Snyder, Sylvia Plath & Robert Creeley.

Student presentation on Sylvia Plath.

**Due the 4th** choice of Poem 12 assignment on pg. 77 in Kowit OR Poem 15, 16 or 17 assignment on Pgs. 85-87 in Kowit—or response poem from Museum or event as metaphor poem.  (Will give question for quiz at end of class).

10/14/15  **The Importance of Revision**
Read for discussion: Chaps 5 & 6 in Kowit, all poems by Rita Dove, Naomi Shihab Nye & Robert Hass.
Revision discussion plus handout.
In class writing.

Student presentation on Naomi Shihab Nye and Robert Hass.
**REQUIRED LION ROCK READING** Tuesday night 10-13 Wellington Center

**Due the 11th** Take-home Quiz #1 and choice of Poem 39 or 41 assignment on pgs. 178-179 in Kowit.

10/21/15  **Sound & Music**
Read for discussion: Chap 7 in Kowit and all poems by W.S. Merwin, C.D. Wright & Charles Wright.
In-class exercises.

Student presentation on C.D. Wright.

**Due the 18th** choice of Poem 39 or 41 assignment on pgs. 178-179 in Kowit.
10/28/15  *Form tools for your toolbelt*
Read for discussion: Chap 19 in Kowit and all poems by Elizabeth Bishop, Richard Wilbur & Marilyn Nelson plus FORMS HANDOUT. (Will give quiz #2 question at end of class).

Student presentation on Elizabeth Bishop and Marilyn Nelson.

**Due the 25th** choice of ghazal, villanelle or sestina (see handout

11/4/15  *Persona & Voice*
Read for discussion: All poems by Ai, Lucille Clifton
Student presentation on Ai and Lucille Clifton.

**Due the 1st** Take home quiz #2 and choice of ghazal, villanelle or sestina (see handout).

11/11/15  MONDAY NIGHT POETRY SLAM Brooklyns pizza 5-7pm
REQUIRED Lion Rock events-ALL
3pm craft talk w/ Jennifer L. Knox Black 151
7pm Lion Rock Reading, SURC Theater
NO class V day. Will post quiz # 3 question on Canvas
Portfolio Guidelines on Canvas

11/18/15  In class writing. Super Workshop-- discussions of Prose poems
**Due 15th** Take-home Quiz #3 Draft of revision portfolio

11/25/15  in class writing. More revision Due

12/ 2/15  Artist statement due.

12/8-11/15  finals! Read from portfolio