

**FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**English 698 (2012/2013)  
ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING  
The Book Length Manuscript (Poetry)**

Instructor: Christian Bök  
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Phone: 403-220-8166  
Email: cbok@ucalgary.ca  
Hours: Tue (17:00-19:00, or by appointment)

**Description of Expectations**

English 698 is an advanced workshop, intended to offer talented students an opportunity to work intensively on a longer, poetic manuscript. Students at this level are expected to be thoroughly comfortable discussing a diverse variety of literary theories about poetry. Students must be prepared to be innovative, applying these theories to a critical analysis of poems composed by themselves and by their colleagues. Students are expected to deliver reports on essays and poetry outlined in the syllabus, while contributing to intelligent, productive discussion about the manuscripts submitted by classmates. The workshop is intended to be a kind of “literary hothouse”—an exploratory environment, not unlike a figurative laboratory.

**Required Reading:**

[Two books selected from the list of literary readings.]

**Other Resources**

*The Elements of Style* by William Strunk and E. B. White

*Glossary of Literary Terms*  
[http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit\\_terms.html](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms.html)

Any handbook that contains the MLA style for documenting citations in essays:  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

**Description of Assignments**

Students receive marks weighted equally between work done within class and work done outside class:

Contribution within Class:

Report I (1500 wds)	15%
Report 2 (1500 wds)	15%
Workshop 1-4	20%

Productivity outside Class:

Manuscript (80 pgs)	50%
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The first half-hour of class typically consists of a report delivered by one student on a literary work (selected from the list of literary readings). The remainder of the class consists of two scheduled workshops (each about one hour in length), addressing work submitted one week in advance by a student.

*Note: All assignments must be completed and submitted in order to receive a passing grade in the course.*

**Report 1-2:** Students must pick two books from among the list of optional, literary readings and then write a short report, analyzing each chosen volume (one per term). Students must deliver a succinct, but thorough, presentation (15-20 min.) in class on this topic, outlining the aesthetics of the author.

(These reports are intended to provide some aesthetic, critical contexts for discussion in class so that students can situate their own practice more cogently within the modern milieu of recent, poetic trends.)

**Workshops:** Students are required, twice per term, to present excerpts of their own work (10-15 pages) for consideration by the class. These discussions (intended to last for about one hour) provide an opportunity for colleagues to give personal responses and pose critical questions about the submitted work. The students are marked not only upon the quality of each submission, but also upon their ability to incorporate any commentary into their own practice so as to improve their work over the course of the year.

(The instructor also encourages students to arrange at least one private meeting per term—perhaps a week after one of the scheduled workshops—so that students can receive individual debriefing about their work.)

**Participation:** Students are expected to contribute to the overall quality of the experience in the classroom. Students are evaluated based upon their commitment to readership, attendance, and discussion. Students may also be asked to attend poetic venues off campus in order to demonstrate commitment to the field.

**Manuscript:** Students must submit a complete, polished draft of their manuscript (at least 60 pages in length). The work is evaluated in part according to the improved maturity of its style over the year, with part of the assessment based upon the suitability of the manuscript for professional publication by a press.

*Note: Please make every effort to submit any assignments and manuscripts directly to the instructor. If you cannot do so, please take your assignment to SS-1152, where the work can be dated and then filed in the mailbox of the instructor. Staff in the office cannot return assignments to students under any circumstances.*

#### OPTIONAL LITERARY READINGS

(Two titles to be selected and examined by each student, one text per term)

Amaranth Borsuk. *Between Page and Screen*  
Laurie Anderson. *Stories from the Nerve Bible*  
Derek Beaulieu. *Flatland*  
Caroline Bergvall. *Meddle English*  
Jenny Boully. *The Body*  
Nancy Chun. *Front Pages*  
Katie Degentesh. *The Anger Scale*  
Joe Dever and Gary Chalk. *Flight from the Dark*  
Christopher Dewdney. *The Natural Histories*  
Craig Dworkin. *The Perverse Library*  
Rob Fitterman. *Metropolis XXX*  
William Gibson. *Agrippa*  
Mary Godolphin. *Robinson Crusoe*  
Lyn Hejinian. *My Life*  
Susan Howe. *The Midnight*  
Joseph Kosuth. *Purloined: A Novel*  
Gwendolyn MacEwan. *The Armies of the Moon*  
David Markson. *Reader's Block*  
Harryette Mullen. *Sleeping with the Dictionary*  
Yoko Ono. *Grapefruit*  
Tom Phillips. *A Humument*  
Georges Perec. *A Void*  
Vanessa Place. *Statement of Facts*  
Raymond Queneau. *Exercises in Style*  
RACER. *The Policeman's Beard is Half-Constructed*

Michael Robbins. *Alien vs. Predator*  
Geoff Ryman. *253*  
Luigi Serafini. *Codex Seraphinianus*  
Jason Shiga. *Meanwhile*  
Gertrude Stein. *Tender Buttons*

## SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

### First Term

Sep 12: Overview of Syllabus

Sep 19: Workshop 1:  
Workshop 1:

Sep 26: Creative Report #1:  
Workshop 1:  
Workshop 1:

Sep 29: Workshop 1:  
Workshop 1:

Oct 03: Creative Report #2:  
Workshop 1:  
Workshop 1:

Oct 10: **PROFESSOR ABSENT (NO CLASS)**

Oct 17: Creative Report #3:  
Workshop 1:  
Workshop 1:

Oct 24: Workshop 1:  
Workshop 1:

Oct 31: Creative Report #4:  
Workshop 2:  
Workshop 2:

Nov 07: Workshop 2:  
Workshop 2:

Nov 14: Creative Report #5:  
Workshop 2:  
Workshop 2:

Nov 21: Creative Report #6:  
Workshop 2:  
Workshop 2:

Nov 28: Workshop 2:  
Workshop 2:

Dec 05: Creative Report #7:  
Workshop 2:  
Workshop 2:

## **Second Term**

Jan 09: Creative Report #1:  
Workshop 3:  
Workshop 3:

Jan 16: Workshop 3:  
Workshop 3:

Jan 23: Creative Report #2:  
Workshop 3:  
Workshop 3:

Jan 30: Workshop 3:  
Workshop 3:

Feb 06: Creative Report #3:  
Workshop 3:  
Workshop 3:

Feb 13: Workshop 3:  
Workshop 3:

Feb 20: **READING BREAK (NO CLASS)**

Feb 27: Creative Report #4:  
Workshop 4:  
Workshop 4:

Mar 06: Workshop 4:  
Workshop 4:

Mar 13: Creative Report #5:  
Workshop 4:  
Workshop 4:

Mar 20: Creative Report #6:  
Workshop 4:  
Workshop 4:

Mar 27: Workshop 4:  
Workshop 4:

Apr 03: Creative Report #7:  
Workshop 4:  
Workshop 4:

Apr 10: Guide to Publishing

**Grading System:** For each assignment, students can expect to receive a grade that includes a letter, plus a numerical conversion, expressed according to the following guideline of percentages: A+ (96-100%, Outstanding); A (85-95%, Excellent); A- (80-84%); B+ (77-79%, Very Good); B (74-76%, Good); B- (70-73%); C+ (67-69%, Average); C (64-66%, Satisfactory); C- (60-63%); D+ (57-59%); D (50-56%, Minimal Pass); F (0-49%, Fail).

**Late Assignments:** The schedule for this course depends heavily upon students delivering their work on the specified, assigned dates. All students must submit their assignments by the deadline to avoid any penalties for tardiness, unless arrangements have been made in advance with the instructor to accommodate crises. Any late assignments are penalized with the loss of one third of a letter grade for each business day late—for example, a paper that might have otherwise received a ‘B’ must receive the mark of ‘B-’ if the paper is submitted one day late). No papers can be accepted four business days after the due date. No extensions can be granted on assignments, except in cases of officially documented sickness or hardship.

**Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/graduate>.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**



**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Department of English’s graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Barbara Howe at 403 220 5484 or visit her in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact Barbara Howe at [howe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:howe@ucalgary.ca) to make an appointment with Dr. Jacqueline Jenkins, Graduate Program Director.

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University *Calendar* link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See *Calendar*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic accommodation:**

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints/>;

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Contact for the Graduate Student Association:** <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## PLAGIARISM

*Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.*

The University *Calendar* states:

1. **Plagiarism** - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University *Calendar*, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.