

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGL364 Lec 01 Poetry Writing I

Fall 2013 and Winter 2014

Class: Mondays 6:30-9:15 PM, Room SS1153
Instructor: Rachel Zolf
Office: SS 1110
Phone: (403) 220-4683
E-mail: rzolf@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: Monday 1–3 pm and by appointment

Course description:

English 364 is a workshop in writing poetry. The objective of the course is to give students a practical grounding in the techniques of writing contemporary poetry, while exploring the various possible ways poets engage with language, the world and the self.

The course is conducted on the seminar/workshop model, featuring discussion and evaluation of each student's creative writing by his or her peers as well as by the instructor. Students will be expected to be actively writing and submitting their creative work throughout the course. In addition, students will make presentations on poetry and criticism, and we will also be conducting discussions, exercises and experiments on various aspects of craft. Students will be expected to attend local public readings outside class time.

Selected texts and readings (available in the University Bookstore):

Jerome Rothenberg (Editor), Pierre Joris (Editor), *Poems for the Millennium Volume Two: From Postwar to Millennium* (University of California Press ISBN: 9780520208643)

Bhanu Kapil, *The Vertical Interrogation of Strangers* (Kelsey Street Press ISBN: 9780932716569)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Students should come to this class prepared for rigorous reading and writing. Grades will be based on the quality of the writing, ability to critique and participate in class discussions, and on formal presentations. Your final grade will consist of an evaluation of all the work you do in the course, including your attendance, participation, presentations and the degree of improvement you make in your writing and critiques. You are expected to attend and to contribute to class discussion. Below is a breakdown of how the final grade is determined. You will be given feedback throughout the year, and you may not skip any component of the grade requirements.

Writing Component of Grade (60%)

Students will hand in poems to be workshopped by the class during the year. They will also hand in two writing portfolios to be marked. The portfolios will consist of polished (which means re-written, not first draft) writing, based primarily on the work critiqued in the course.

The first portfolio (handed in at end of Fall term) will be worth 20% of the final grade in the class. The final portfolio, worth 40% of the final grade in the class is due no later than the final class of the year. These portfolios will be judged according to the amount of work accomplished,

the progress in realizing objectives, and evidence of the student's grasp of the principles and techniques involved in writing poetry.

Each portfolio must be accompanied by a process statement describing student's own analysis of progress, difficulties encountered, difficulties remaining, and objectives for the future. More details will be given in class.

All work must be typed and double-spaced in a legible font, no smaller than 12 point. Poems do not have to be double-spaced.

Participation (including attendance) (10%)

Participation and attendance are key components of this creative writing class. Students must attend class, arrive punctually, and actively participate in class discussion every week. Your energetic involvement is essential to a successful learning experience for everyone. One participation mark (1 out of a total of 10) will be deducted for each class missed without providing written evidence of a legitimate emergency (e.g., a doctor's note or death notice). Students who miss three classes without providing proof of a valid reason will receive a mark of 0 in Participation. Students who miss class without providing written evidence of a legitimate emergency on a scheduled day that they are to be workshopped or give a presentation will lose three Participation marks.

Critiques (10%)

Students will be expected to read carefully and respond usefully in writing to each other's work. Development of critical skills, the ability to suggest ways to improve and generate more work for others is an important component of this workshop, because it usually precedes the capacity to apply these same skills to one's own work. In the first term, students are required to provide two copies of a one paragraph to one page long, double-spaced written commentary for each submission critiqued (one for the instructor and one for the student whose work is being discussed). In the second term, the critiques will be submitted directly from student to student and the instructor will mark students on in-class oral critique skills.

In-class Presentations (10%)

Students will also be expected to read assigned texts of poetry and criticism and comment on them. Each student will make two in-class presentations on assigned texts. Following the discussion, the student will hand in the write-up of his or her presentation to the instructor.

Writing Exercises (6%)

A number of writing exercises will be assigned, intended to generate work, practice fundamental techniques and explore the possibilities of poetic practice. In the first term, these exercises will not be graded, but marks will be deducted if the exercises are not completed when assigned. In the second term, these exercises will be graded. Late submissions of writing exercises will not be accepted.

Journal (2%)

Students will also be responsible for maintaining a writer's journal throughout the year, which will be checked once per term by the instructor. Marks will be awarded for completion of the assigned entries and deducted for incomplete entries. More details will be given in class.

Reading Reviews (2%)

Readings and other literary events provide students with exposure to the writing community and performance techniques. Students will be expected to attend one external and/or departmental reading each term and comment on it. Students will hand in a one-page, typed, double-spaced report on the reading or event – more details will be given in class. The first report is due by the last class of the Fall semester; the second report is due by the last class of the Winter semester.

Students must complete **ALL** assignments in order to pass the course. There is **NO** final exam in this course.

Students will receive 40 percent of their final grade by the first class of the January term (January 13). This will consist of a grade on your first writing portfolio, worth 20 percent of final grade, plus half of your marks in all other course elements, except Presentation (out of 5) and Journal (out of 1) which you will have received during fall term. This means on January 13, you will receive a Portfolio mark out of 20; Participation and Critique marks out of 5 each; Exercises mark out of 3; and Reading Review mark out of 1. In the second term, you will receive grades for Presentation, Journal and Exercises during the term, and Portfolio, Participation and Critique at the end of the course.

E-mail and electronic submissions policy:

Assignments and course work must be submitted in class, on the due date and in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made. In particular, submitting work by e-mail without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work on time, in class.

I am happy to reply to short specific questions via e-mail and will answer as promptly as possible (usually it takes me approx. one week to respond to a given e-mail). However, I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within a specific amount of time. If you have detailed questions on the course material, it is more appropriate to visit me during office hours or make an appointment to see me personally in my office.

*Note: Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and place it in the drop-box. Your assignment will then be date-stamped and placed in your instructor's mailbox. To retain confidentiality, place your assignment in an envelope. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. It is your responsibility to do so. **Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.***

Grading system:

Here is the grading system used in this course:

A+/90+%; A/85-89%; A-/80-84%; B+/77-79%; B/74-76%; B-/70-73%; C+/67-69%; C/64-66%; C-/60-63; D+/55-59; D/50-54; F /0-49%.

Policy on late assignments: All written assignments must be submitted in hard copy.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each day [not class] that the assignment is overdue, unless a written proof of medical reasons is provided.

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>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence

and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events <http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>. Our email address is smec@ucalgary.ca.

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>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

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 Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

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 the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic

accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

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/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.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.