

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2017

ENGLISH 693

STUDIES IN CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY (POETRY WORKSHOP)

Monday 18:00 – 20:45

SS 1015

Instructor: Professor Shannon Maguire

Office: Social Sciences 1050

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Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 10-11:30 AM or by appointment

Course Description:

What is possible in poetry today? How do the best contemporary poets approach their work in language? How might you develop your “language of inquiry”— as American poet Lyn Hejinian calls poetry—and sharpen its response to and meaningful engagement with the contemporary world? How do formal, conceptual, and aesthetic choices reverberate with the social, cultural, and political domains? These are the major questions that drive this poetry workshop.

During the course of the semester, we will read and consider student work as well as published work by some of the most exciting poets working today.

Texts and Readings:

Layli Long Soldier. *Whereas*. Graywolf Press, 2017.

Gregory Scofield. *Witness, I Am*. Nightwood, 2016.

Margaret Christakos. *Multitudes*. Coach House, 2012.

Lisa Robertson. *Three Summers*. Coach House, 2016.

Chantal Neveu. *A Spectacular Influence*. (translated by Nathaniel). BookThug, 2015.

Francois Turcot. *My Dinosaur*. (translated by Erin Moure) BookThug, 2016.

Weyman Chan. *Chinese Blue*. Talonbooks, 2012.

Trish Salah. *Lyric Sexology Vol. 1*. Roof Books, 2014.

Aisha Sasha John. *Thou*. BookThug, 2014.

Fenn Stewart. *Better Nature*. BookThug, 2017.
David Bateman. *Destination Youth*. Frontenac House Poetry, 2014.

Assignments and Evaluations:

Workshop Participation	20%
Seminar Participation	10%
Seminar Presentation	20%
Final Portfolio	50%

Workshop Participation:

Every week, students will upload 2 pages of poetry to D2L by **FRIDAY, 4 PM**. PDF format **MUST BE USED**. Over the weekend, students will write 1 page (double space) of written feedback for each of their peers. The feedback may include constructive suggestions about formal and aesthetic choices, comments about the affective impact of the work (or aspects of the work), questions where something is unclear.

On Monday, each student will bring enough copies of their own work to share with their peers and professor. As well, students will bring 2 copies of their peer feedback (1 for the author and 1 for the professor). After a writer's work is discussed, students will hand them their formal written feedback as well as their informal notes made during class on the handout.

The marks for this portion of the course are as follows:

- 10 % for preparedness to workshop your own work and gracefully receive feedback.
- 10 % for the quality of the feedback you give your peers (both written and verbal).

Seminar Participation

We will be reading a book a week by published poets. In order to be prepared to discuss the structure, form, and other aspects of the poetics of each book in class, students will write one page (double spaced) of "wonderments"—that is, questions and astonishments, observations about structure, and other things that please, perplex, or move the reader that must be posted to D2L by no later than **NOON MONDAY**. Please bring a printed copy to class for your own reference. You may want to provide a brief close reading of a particular poem and tie it into the significance of the overall structure of the book, or you may want to zoom out and consider the macrostructures at work in the book.

Just to be clear: your one page response needs to include a clear and focused discussion question to be posed in class.

During class, if there isn't a scheduled formal seminar presentation of the work, the group will be responsible for discussing the work in relation to the questions that inform this course (see course description above).

Your seminar participation mark is based on the quality of your engagement with the work at hand.

Seminar Presentation

Once during the semester, on a date to be determined during the second week of classes, you will present a **20 minute** conference-style presentation on a given book. This presentation will be informed by one of the overarching course questions (see course description above), will have a clear thesis and conclusion, and will include a close reading of at least one of the poems, and a concise description of the macro structure(s) and *their significance*. The goal is to contextualize and analyze the work for your classmates and to connect it to larger debates in contemporary poetry. Your presentation should draw on relevant scholarship (this is a research presentation) and may include a visual presentation (slides, etc).

The presentation will be followed by a 20 minute question period that the presenter will moderate.

You must submit a word.doc version of your conference presentation (including works cited) to your professor via D2L drop box by no later than **5 PM on the day of your presentation**.

Your mark will be assessed as follows:

- 10% for the strength of your argument.
- 5 % for the strength of your presentation.
- 5 % for your facilitation of discussion.

Final Portfolio Due: Friday, December 8, 2017

The final portfolio is a manuscript of work that you have written and workshopped over the course of the semester. Ideally it will be a thick chapbook (24-47 pages) of publishable quality. It must be a complete project in itself. If you have a book-length work that is complete, that is also acceptable but it is more desirable to create a well-crafted project that is complete in its macro and micro structures than it is to be overly ambitious but leave too many loose ends. This manuscript will be accompanied by a poetics essay that positions your work in the context of contemporary poetics and the larger questions that inform this course (see course description above) and discusses the specific engagement with forms, concepts, aesthetics, politics etc. that inform your poetry. You should include your "inquiry" or creative research question in your poetics as well as how *you answered your question*. Your poetry project *is* a research project and needs to be accompanied by a works cited that draws on relevant scholarship.

20 % of the mark will be based on your poetics of 2500-3000 words (not including notes and works cited).

30 % of the mark will be based on the strength, originality, and craftsmanship of your poetry manuscript of *at least* 24 pages.

Late Assignment Policy:

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Your Graduate Teaching Assistants are not able to offer extensions for any assignment; you must contact Professor Maguire directly. There are no make-up assignments.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

Grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the Graduate Calendar:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-g-1.html>

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

Please note: A B- is considered a minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

In the case of Instructors using numerical marks in the grading of term work, the departmental conversion chart applies.

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Students must complete all assignments to receive a passing grade.

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-5.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>. 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>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyn@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

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 the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at enggrad@ucalgary.ca to make an appointment with Dr. Suzette Mayr, Graduate Program Director.

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>.

Student Accommodations:**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with

Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

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>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

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.