

Prageeta Sharma – Advanced Poetry Workshop

Office LA 211

Fall 2016

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Tuesday, LA 233

3:30pm-6:20pm

Office hours: Wed. 3:00-5:30

411 POETRY WORKSHOP

This is an advanced poetry workshop where we—as a class—will mindfully engage with the craft of poetry writing. Our primary text, *The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth Century American Poetry*, will allow us to focus on an expansive collection of poems that illustrate the uses of diction, syntax, recitation, and styles in 20th and 21st century poetry. Our supplemental link (below), *Handbook of Poetic Forms*, will help us to define and utilize poetic forms and tropes. We will also discuss current trends and themes in contemporary poetry today; in doing so, we will also trace the literary traditions that inform contemporary poetry. You will be required to explore poetic imitations and present your work and the work of published poets to the class; you will also be expected to keep a poetry journal in which you will reflect on assigned readings, create drafts and finished poems of your own, and collect poems, epigraphs, and images that will be of inspiration to you. This will be passed in as a midterm project. You will also be expected to complete poetry responses (2 pgs in journal), imitations, and poems (which I hope will be started and completed in your journal) and a poetry portfolio, which will be due at the end of the semester.

REQUIRED READING:

- ***The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth Century American Poetry*, Edited by Rita Dove**
- **Handbook of Poetic Forms, Ron Padgett**

<http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED304701.pdf> (link to PDF)

Buy a journal or keep a computer journal that you will submit or print out to me for a midterm; it will also include poems.

I encourage you to exchange e-mail addresses/phone numbers with your fellow peers as you will be getting to know each other through your own work and responses. Since we are creating a conscientious and supportive environment, I trust that you will be mindful and respectful of each other's work and not discuss the work with persons outside of our workshop unless you have permission from the author. Many of you will be making use of the class to explore personal and important themes and would enjoy a comfortable environment to do so.

Along with the reading and writing of poetry and the occasional essay, video or audio recording, each class will have a five minute freewrite. This means you are free to write in your notebook without worrying about revising or crafting in advance. I will also encourage a focus freewrite where we will have a theme or a stylistic consideration as a frame of reference. This will happen every class. This will part of developing your final portfolio and/or manuscript.

All course work (unless stated otherwise: not applicable to the midterm journal, which will require either typed stapled/glued pages or handwritten entries) must be typed or computer printed on standard white 20-24lb paper, double spaced and with a minimum of 1-inch margins. Keep a copy (electronic or otherwise) of all material you submit to me or the class. Be prepared to make weekly copies of your work for peers—a student will be assigned weekly to collect poems and make a handout placed in the shelf across from my office by Monday noon (this will be discussed in class on the first day). We will be doing weekly writing assignments in class, and you will be expected to write on your own time. We may also consider creating a blog, private Facebook group, Moodle, or some kind of on-line community where you can share work.

Grading policy:

35% in class participation, 20% weekly poetry/midterm assignment/responses (on time!) 20% panels and presentations and 25% final portfolio. I expect full participation and will allow for only one absence*.

Students with Disabilities:

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me after class or in my office hours. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator, so I can do my best to support you.

*Policy on absences and lateness:

The standard policy is that no more than two absences in a fourteen week term may result in a grade of “no-credit.” Please arrive on time for class and stay until dismissal. Repeated/chronic late arrivals and leaving before dismissal will affect your final grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If there is an emergency please speak to me about it as soon as you can.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty—in as much as they keep the individual student as well as the collective community from learning—will result in an automatic F and may entail a variety of other sanctions up to and including expulsion from the University. FOR A DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM SEE <http://www.lib.umt.edu/services/plagiarism/index.htm>. IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CONSULT THE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA’S WEB SITE.

Course Schedule by date:

8/30 INTRODUCTION

Discussion of Poetry and Handbook of Poetic Forms

Fill out poetry questionnaire

Homework: Read Introduction *The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth Century American Poetry*, Edited by Rita Dove

Write poem from questionnaire

9/6

The Penguin Anthology of Twentieth Century American Poetry

Bring in twelve copies of questionnaire poem to class

Workshop

9/13

Presentation of workshop guidelines, prompts, and exercises &

Workshop

9/20

Presentation on poems (We will discuss our favorites and pick some from the list below to collaboratively build imitations (in class). I will discuss traditions and forms.):

John Keats "To Autumn"

<<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/autumn>>

Walt Whitman "A Noiseless Patient Spider"

< <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/45473>>

Emily Dickinson "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain"

< <http://academic.brooklyn.cuny.edu/english/melani/cs6/funeral.html>>

Philip Larkin "High Windows"

<<http://www.artofeurope.com/larkin/lar5.htm>>

From Anthology:

Paul Laurence Dunbar "The Poet"

Stephen Dobyns "How to Like It"

Marianne Moore "Poetry" (74 &75)

Robert Hayden "Those Winter Sundays"

Michael S. Harper "Nightmare Begins Responsibility"

Robert Lowell "Skunk Hour"

Sonia Sanchez "Poem at Thirty"

T.S. Eliot "The Wasteland"

James Welch "Christmas Comes to Moccasin Flat"

John Ashbery "Some Trees"

ATTEND MONTANA BOOK FESTIVAL (Handout of MT festival writers distributed in class: Eileen Myles, Greg Pardlo, et al.)

Homework:

Pick five poems to imitate and respond to in your poetry journal. Rewrite the best imitation and submit to your packet of poems.

9/27

Presentation on poems:

James Tate "The Lost Pilot"

Kay Ryan "Turtle"

Toi Derricotte "The Weakness"

Robert Hass "Song"

Lyn Hejinian from "My Life"

Sharon Olds "The Language of Brag"

Michael Palmer "I Do Not"

Heather McHugh "Language Lesson 1976"

Leslie Marmon Silko "In Cold Storm Light"

Victor Hernández Cruz "Latin & Soul"

C.D. Wright "Girl Friend Poem #3"

Joy Harjo "She Had Some Horses"

Rita Dove "Daystar"

Mark Doty "Brilliance"

Homework: Imitations of Carmen Giménez Smith
and Ruth Ellen Kocher's poems from handout in class

10/4

Workshop: Imitations:

Workshop four imitations of Wright, Ashbery, Ryan, and Silko

10/11

Presentation on poems:

Marilyn Chin "How I Got That Name" or "The Survivor"

Li-Young Lee "Eating Together"

Nick Flynn "Cartoon Physics, part 1"

Elizabeth Alexander "Equinox"

Sherman Alexie "What the Orphan Inherits"

Harryette Mullen "Black Nikes"

Joanna Klink "Spare"

Naomi Shihab Nye "Wedding Cake"

10/18 Recitation:

Memorize a poem from anthology and write an Elegy, Aubade, Ode
Guest Speaker

Workshop on memorizing and recitation

Workshopping: We workshop free verse poems

10/25 Recitation:

We will recite poems (of your choice)
And we'll discuss the poems you've chosen
Workshopping

11/1

Journal due: including an Elegy, Aubade, Ode
and a literary journal summary

11/8

Journal presentations and readings of forms.

11/15

Prosody: Sonnet, Villanelle, Pantoum
Workshop

11/22

Presentation on literary journals
Workshop

11/29

Workshop

12/6

Workshop

12/13

Reading and classroom party (bring soda & treats to class)