CRWR 211A: Intro to Poetry Workshop

Instructor: Nate Duke
Location: Health Science 207
Time: 12:30-1:50 Tuesday Thursday
Instructor email: joseph.duke@umconnect.umt.edu
Office: Corbin 349
Office hours: after class and by appointment

Course Overview
Writing poetry, like most things worth doing, takes a lot of practice. One of our primary goals this semester is to find and calibrate dependable strategies for content generation, i.e. writing. It is my hope that we will write lots and lots of bad poems together, and from them learn something about writing good poems. Writing and drafting will be the foundation of this course, and in order to see and then realize the potential in our first attempts at poems we will also be reading critical samples from across the canon.

Learning Outcomes
• Acquire foundational skills in reading, discussing, and writing poetry.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the terminology and concepts that apply to poetry.
• Practice the art of writing and revising poetry.
• Learn to critique the quality of your own work and that of fellow students.

Required Texts
Sample poems from poetryfoundation.org, Paris Review “Art of Poetry” interviews, instructor emails

Course Assignments
Expect to write a poem a week. No, we will not be able to workshop every poem, but we are interested in quantity as a path to quality. When we workshop, your legible and considered feedback on colleague’s drafts will be an important component in your development as a member of our linguistic community.

There will be some informal writing assignments, “journal entries” based on the readings. You will also learn to navigate the poetry sections of the library, as I will ask you to find and bring in poetry collections that are meaningful to you and explain why.

Conferences
I will meet with you individually at least once during the semester to discuss the current state of your poetics, your ambitions, and your final portfolio.
Final Portfolio
You will submit twelve poems in a Final Portfolio, due at our last class meeting. Although some of these poems will have undergone substantial revision, you need not submit the original version. Your portfolio should include only your best work.

Late Work
This is going to be a pretty fast paced course, and as such late work will not be accepted.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Attendance: Because workshops and class discussions are the foundation of this course, regular attendance is critical. More than two absences will drop you a letter grade. So, for the 3rd unexcused absence, the highest grade you could earn is a B, 4th a C, etc. I will take attendance once at the beginning of each class; please arrive on time.

Participation: Come to class with questions and insights, having completed all assignments, and be prepared to contribute your perspective to our discussion. In workshop, suggestions should be tactful, thorough, and specific. Verbal participation is only one form, and students may also participate through active listening, commitment to the revision process, and engagement with course concepts in their creative work.

Assessment
• 40% participation, workshop participation + feedback
• 30% weekly writing assignments
• 30% final portfolio

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodation. Please speak with me privately after class or in my office. Be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator. If you think you might qualify for Disability Services and you have not yet registered, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243.

Academic Integrity Plagiarism is defined in the UM Student Conduct Code as representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own. Consequences include failing an assignment, failing the course, or even expulsion.