CRWR 411: Advance Poetry Workshop
Fall 2020 | Section 01, CRN: 73682
Tuesday & Thursday | 3:30p – 4:50p
Class: L13 Gallagher Business Building

Instructor: Sean Hill
E-mail: sean.hill@umt.edu
Office: 113 Liberal Arts Building
Office Hours: W 2:00 – 5:00 or by appt.
Mailbox: 129 Liberal Arts Building

Note: The syllabus is subject to changes as announced in class and on Moodle.

> **UM Course Description of CRWR 411 - Advanced Poetry Workshop** | 3 Credits.
> (R-6) Offered autumn and spring. Prerep., junior standing or consent of instr. An
> advanced writing workshop involving critical analysis of students' work-in-progress, as
> well as reading and discussion of poems by established poets. Discussions will focus on
> structure and stylistic refinement, with emphasis on revision. Different techniques,
> schools and poetic voices will be encouraged. Frequent individual conferences.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Poetry is the art of connection—yoking disparate things together with metaphor,
stringing sounds together in patterns of rhythm and rhyme, employing the power of
syntax with a chain of words. In this course, students will analyze published poems
for specific strategies of connection and discuss the ways the poet uses these
various techniques to establish motivation and emotional depth, and create
linguistic music, among other things. Writing in the class will focus primarily on the
generation and revision of the students' own poems. Students will participate in
evaluating their own work and the work of their peers. The goal of this course is to
deepen and expand the students' poetry writing skills and knowledge developed in
previous creative writing workshops. Each student will produce an end-of-term
portfolio of revised poems.

Student Learning Outcomes for CRWR 411: Advanced Creative Writing: Poetry
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of poetic traditions
- Write and submit a substantial group of poems for peer review
- Revise poems from previous semesters
- Become familiar with various publishing venues and the procedures for
  submitting poems
- Practice elements of craft and style by writing imitation poems
- Exhibit a high level of sophistication in the critique of peer work

- Assemble a portfolio of poems, including revisions, that displays advanced skill levels as assessed by the instructor.

Required Texts

A Fortune for Your Disaster by Hanif Abdurraqib

The Galleons by Rick Barot

Where Outside the Body Is the Soul Today by Melissa Kwasny

Holy Moly Carry Me by Erika Meitner

The Poet's Companion by Kim Addonizio & Dorianne Laux

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXTS: A good dictionary (one with etymologies) and a thesaurus. An online dictionary is perfectly fine as long as it includes etymologies.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- A notebook and writing utensil for daily writing assignments both in and out of class.
- Access to a computer with internet connection, as well as a printer and a stapler outside of class.

Instructional Methods

The class will consist of in-class discussion of assigned reading, writing exercises, craft lectures, and peer workshop.

COURSE WORK POINT VALUES

Writing Assignments
Poems (10): Each poem is worth 30 points.
Poems total 300 points

Reading / Writing Quizzes
10 (RWQ): Each WQ is worth 20 points.
Reading / Writing Quizzes 200 points

Portfolio & Critical Introduction total 250 points

Attendance total 50 points
Workshop Participation total 200 points

Total Course Points 1000 points

Note on formatting and procedures:

- All work must be TYPED in a standard 12-point, single-spaced, and left justified with one inch margins unless there is an artistic, graphic formatting reason to format your work differently. One poem per page if you are submitting multiple poems.
- All work must have your name, CRWR 411, and the date on it in the top right corner.
- All multiple-page work must include page numbers.
- Use staples or binder clips for all assignments.
- ALL work should before the beginning of class.

GRADING CRITERIA
Work will be graded on completeness; appropriate length; correct and appropriate grammar, word choice, spelling, and punctuation; and successful use of creative writing elements. Late workshop pieces will not be workshopped and will lose 10 points on grade.

WRITTEN WORK:
1. Poems (10@ 30 points each). **Worth a total of 30% of your course grade.**

2. Quizzes (10 @ 20 points each). These quizzes will cover poetic terminology and other material we discuss in class or taken from our reading. If you are absent on the day of the quiz, you will be given an alternate quiz. You must arrange this with me within one week of your absence. **Worth a total of 10% of your course grade.**

3. Portfolio & Critical Introduction (1 @ 250 points) Five sentences minimum of thoughtful critique per assigned workshop poems. **Worth a total of 25% of your course grade.**

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS
Students may miss up to *three* classes without penalty. Missing a workshop day (even if your work isn't being workshopped) will count as **two** absences. Each absence after three will result in a 15-point penalty to your attendance grade.
Do not be late. I take attendance at the beginning of class; students who are not present when I take attendance are not eligible to be marked present for the day.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
You must be ready to share your ideas and insights on all of the workshop poems, short stories, and essays as well as any assigned readings. And because you'll be getting feedback and comments from your classmates on your poems, this also means you need to come to class prepared to make respectful yet rigorous criticisms of the work presented in workshop.

CRITIQUING CLASSMATES' WORKS

When it comes to critiquing each other's creative writing, I ask that you bring written critiques to class, and I encourage you to take your classmate's work on their own terms rather than hold them up to a rigid paradigm of what you think a poem should be. Begin by praising the successes of the poem and then take an interrogative approach. Consider what the poem seeks to accomplish and try to understand its internal logic. Focus on what makes the poem necessary. I think this makes you a better audience for the poem, and hopefully it provides a more useful experience for your classmate whose work is being critiqued.

CLASS ATMOSPHERE AND SAFETY

We will discuss ideas and writing as a class, in small groups, and one-on-one. **All opinions are respected in this class**. Students will be mindful of their classmates' feelings when commenting on each other's opinions. **You may disagree with each other, and with me, as long as it is done in an atmosphere of mutual respect**. **Use of electronic devices** such as laptops, music players/headphones, cell phones and the like distracts from our class focus and is therefore not allowed unless approved by the instructor. Cell phones must be kept silent. **Texting** in class is disrespectful and distracting and **will not be tolerated**.

CAVEAT: **I reserve the right to change and amend this syllabus and schedule as necessary.**

University Resources

DISABILITY SERVICES FOR STUDENTS:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

This is my first semester at UM, and starting a semester in the middle of a global pandemic is a first for us all. There is a fair amount of uncertainty about how this semester will unfold, so we'll have to be flexible. We may need to modify this course. I will update the course Moodle as needed, and we may be using Zoom to meet virtually. The health and safety of our class and community is a priority. Please follow these guidelines while in our class:

1. You're required to wear a mask while in the classroom

2. Each student is provided with a cleaning kit. You're expected to clean your personal work space when you arrive for class, and before you leave

3. Classrooms may have one-way entrances / exits to minimize crowding

4. You should not congregate outside the classroom before and after class

5. Specific seating arrangements will be used to ensure social distancing and support contact tracing efforts

6. Class attendance will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts

7. Drinking and eating food are strongly discouraged within the classroom since it involves mask removal

8. Stay home if you feel sick and/or if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, and please contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330

9. Up-to-Date COVID-19 Information from the University of Montana on the following websites:
   UM Coronavirus Website: www.umt.edu/coronavirus
   UM COVID-19 Fall 2020 website: www.umt.edu/coronavirus/fall2020.php

10. Please help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 outside the classroom—practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands thoroughly and often. This is for your safety and well-being and that of our community.

Provisional Schedule of IMPORTANT DATES

Week One
Aug 20   Introduction to Course

Week Two
Aug 25   Workshop 1 A & Reading: TBD
Aug 27   Workshop 1 B & Reading: TBD

Week Three
Sep 1   Workshop 2 A & Reading: TBD
Sep 3   Workshop 2 B & Reading: TBD

Week Four
Sep 8   Workshop 3 A & Reading: TBD
Sep 10   Workshop 3 B & Reading: TBD

Week Five
Sep 15   Workshop 4 A & Reading: TBD
Sep 17   Workshop 4 B & Reading: TBD

Week Six
Sep 22   Workshop 5 A & Reading: TBD
Sep 24   Workshop 5 B & Reading: TBD

Week Seven
Sep 29   Workshop 6 A & Reading: TBD
Oct 1   Workshop 6 B & Reading: TBD

Week Eight
Oct 6   Workshop 7 A & Reading: TBD
Oct 8   Workshop 7 B & Reading: TBD

Week Nine
Oct 13   Workshop 8 A & Reading: TBD
Oct 15   Workshop 8 B & Reading: TBD

Week Ten
Oct 20   Workshop 9 A & Reading: TBD
Oct 22   Workshop 9 B & Reading: TBD

Week Eleven
Oct 27   Workshop 10 A & Reading: TBD
Oct 29   Workshop 10 B & Reading: TBD

Week Twelve
Nov 3   Workshop 11 A & Reading: TBD
Nov 5   Workshop 11 B & Reading: TBD

Week Thirteen
Nov 10   Workshop 12 A & Reading: TBD
Nov 12   Workshop 12 B & Reading: TBD

Week Fourteen
Nov 17   **<u>Last Class Meeting</u>**