Advanced Undergraduate Poetry Workshop
CRWR 411
The University of Montana
Joanna Klink
Wednesdays 3-6 pm
LA 210

Poetry is the language of intensity. Because we are going to die, an expression of intensity is justified.

C.D. Wright

This
an advanced poetry workshop involving critical analysis of student work as well as reading and discussion of poems by established poets. On a weekly basis we will examine student poems and the practical issues in poetics (descriptive language, syntax, diction, etc.) they bring to light. Be prepared to do imitations; some memorization may also be required.

Required Texts
The Norton Anthology of Contemporary Poetry, edited Ramazani, Ellman & O’Clair
+ Weekly worksheets

Office Hours
Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm
some Friday afternoons
& always moreso by appointment
LA 231
joanna.klink@mso.umt.edu

Poems
One poem is due each week on Monday, by 4 pm, in my mailbox in the English Department office. Most of the time this poem will be based on a prompt. You can always hand in more poems than are assigned. If you miss the deadline, hold on to your work until the following week. Please don’t xerox poems and bring them to class, or email poems to the class.

Put your name next to each poem title.

Do not hand in double-sided copies.

Do not staple anything.

Worksheets
Each week in class I’ll hand out a new packet (“worksheet”) of student poems, with a list at the top of who’s up for workshop.
Read through all the poems on the worksheet and prepare the ones marked for discussion.

Read and prepare any other assignments.

Be, in class, present.

**Discussion**
The quality of our classes depends on your care in reading as well as your willingness to write down comments in advance, to take each other seriously, to approach radically different styles with an open mind, to contribute thoughtfully to discussions, and to sustain a generous manner with one another throughout. I promise to bring the same kind of attention to the class.

**Outcomes**
My hope is that, by the end of the semester, you will be able to read and edit your own work as if it had been written by somebody else.

**Grading**
Your grade will reflect your participation: participation in class is essential. For every two classes you miss, your grade will be lowered by one letter grade. You are required to attend Poetry for Lunch; poetry readings by Stefania Heim, Mary Szybist, and Sarah Gridley & Josh Corey; and to produce a final portfolio of poems, made up of weekly exercises.

Participation 40% (includes readings)
Final Portfolio 60%

Collaboration on assignments is not allowed.
You are responsible for all work whether or not you are in class.

Perhaps poems will continue to illuminate their solitudes, but best of all would be if poems occasioned a greater endeavor, that of sitting around and trying to figure something out together. It is the scholar who, “coughing in ink,” annoys us by pointing out that “study” derives from the Latin *studia*, or eagerness. This eagerness demands nothing other than a table, a book, and a lamp to gather around. Life itself can be counted on to furnish the solitude and longing in excess. What I wish for my students, as yet strangers to their own deepest eagerness, is what I wish more and more for myself, the lamp, the table, the curious company, and most of all, the conversation that opens our own ignorant ear.

DeSales Harrison, *Boston Review*
Schedule of Classes

Wednesday, January 27  Introduction to voice
Wednesday, February 3  Workshop
Wednesday, February 10  Workshop
Wednesday, February 17  Workshop
Wednesday, February 24  Workshop
Friday, February 26  Stefania Heim reads
                      Dell Brown 7 pm
Wednesday, March 2  Workshop
Wednesday, March 9  Workshop
Wednesday, March 16  Workshop
Wednesday, March 23  Workshop
Friday, March 25  Mary Szybist reads
                  Dell Brown 7 pm
Wednesday, March 30  Workshop
Wednesday, April 6  NO CLASS
                    Spring Break
Wednesday, April 13  POETRY FOR LUNCH
                      MANSFIELD LIBRARY 12-1 PM
Friday, April 15  Sarah Gridley and Joshua Corey read
                  Dell Brown 7 pm
Wednesday, April 20  Workshop
Wednesday, April 27  Workshop + Portfolios due
Friday, April 29  John D’Agata reads
                  Dell Brown 7 pm
Wednesday, May 4  Students read from their work