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CRWR 311.01: Intermediate Poetry Workshop

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CRWR 311, Intermediate Poetry Workshop, 3 credits, Autumn, 2020

Course Information

- Day/time: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00-6:20pm
- Location: Education 241 or the West Tennis Court tent

Contact Information

- Instructor: Keetje Kuipers
- Office: LA 127
- Phone: 406-243-5231
- Email: keetje.kuipers@umontana.edu

Course Description

We will focus on the process of writing, different ways of analyzing a poem, and how to receive and incorporate into revision peer critiques of your own poems. Our work together will involve critical writing assignments, as well as creative writing exercises focused on technical considerations like diction, rhythm, rhyme, and imagery. We will approach this work through an examination of place: the American West as a historical and present day cultural obsession, our notions of “natural” landscape, the intersections of rural and industrial life, and the myths of belonging to this place. Using our engagement with the West as a lens for our writing will allow us to engage a wide range of topics within our own poems, including love, death, family, and home.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will:

- read closely and respond to critical and creative texts that expand their notion of what a poem can accomplish
- deepen their facility with the elements of poetry such as the musical, metaphorical, structural, and rhetorical
- write their own adventurous and daring poems
- provide others with constructive critiques of works-in-progress
- incorporate criticism in order to compose their own portfolios of thoroughly revised poems

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

No textbook. Students will read and retain a collection of handouts and documents posted on Moodle.

Course Requirements

Class Format and Procedures

Thursday classes will be reserved for discussion of outside texts, small group activities, one-on-one conferences, and writing exercises. Our Tuesday classes will be devoted to workshop. The class will be split into three groups—River, Meadow, and Canyon—rotating groups for workshop each week. Everyone will get a chance to workshop 3 original poems over the course of the semester, along with one additional workshop of a revised poem at the end of the semester. The Saturday before workshop, the students in the scheduled group will post their poems on Moodle by midnight. On Tuesday, everyone will share their constructive feedback and will turn their written critiques in for grading.

Responsibilities

Students are expected to complete critical responses to the assigned texts and come to class prepared to discuss them. Students will also submit freshly written poems from assigned writing exercises each week. For workshop, students will come to class having read the other students' poems, and will provide thorough oral and written critiques. Students must also regularly check Moodle for assignment materials, updates, and deadlines.

Final Portfolio

You will make a digital chapbook of significantly revised poems written during the semester, including a critical introduction.

Attendance

Absences must be discussed with the instructor prior to class. Unexpected absences will result in one-half letter-grade reduction per class. More than 2 unexpected absences may result in you being asked to drop the class.

Grading Assessment

Grading is based on active participation in the workshops and discussions (25%), weekly critical and creative responses (25%), workshop poems and critiques (25%), and the final portfolio (25%). Late work will receive no credit. If an assignment is not turned in through the proper forum (in class, through Moodle, etc), it will be considered late. Creative work will be graded based on fulfillment of the instructions, rigor of the finished product, and the sense of adventure and exploration applied to the work.

Other Information

Special Accommodation

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

Mask use is required within the classroom and whenever 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained outside. You may be required to complete the course online through Moodle and Zoom (students must have access to appropriate electronic devices for remote learning).