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CRWR 211A.50C: Introduction to Poetry Workshop

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CRWR 211A 50C 74072- Intro to Poetry Workshop Online Section

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Pronouns: she/her

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Missoula College

Fall 2021

Course Description

Welcome to your Intro to Poetry Workshop. In this class, we will explore the fundamentals of poetry by reading, writing, and creating original work to better understand this elusive craft. My understanding of poetry as a creative writing genre is ~~giving and~~ dynamic because the more I read, the harder it becomes to define. This class will be an experimental look at a varied selection of poetic work and will challenge students to push beyond preconceived notions about what poetry may or may not be.

In a workshop setting, community is one of the most important aspects we will discuss and build upon in this course which although undoubtedly challenging in an online setting, the ability to respond and engage with both published and ~~written~~ work will be critical to success in our 211 course. We will look at various communities of writers who influenced entire poetic movements, their historical context, and the forms (styles) they gravitated toward or actively combatted. Poets can be delightfully contradictory in that way, operating under sets of rules they're constantly breaking. This course will introduce you to a handful of these rules and provide opportunities for you to break them in your own way.

Whether you're walking into this with a bias toward ~~paragraphs~~ and punctuation or you write sonnets in your sleep, whether you've got a list of favorite poets or the only poems you've stumbled upon are #instapoetry, this class will expose you to readings and exercises that will deepen your understanding poetry and fuel your creativity.

Please complete the weekly modules by their designated due dates, beginning with review of the course syllabus.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to effectively:

- analyze, discuss, and utilize terminology, concepts, and elements of craft specific to poetry, both verbally and in critical and creative writing.
- provide constructive feedback for peers during poetry workshop, both verbally and in writing. Students will learn to critique the quality of their own work and that of fellow students. This means students will provide detailed comments on peer work beyond “I like this” or “I don’t like this.”
- demonstrate a foundational understanding of poetic influences and movements as well as gain a familiarity with a diverse range of poets.
- showcase their creative work and revisions in a final portfolio.

Course Texts and Required Reading

I am not requiring you to buy any textbooks for this course. I will upload PDFs or provide links to the poems/craft essays accessible on our Moodle page.

Critical responses

In lieu of a midterm, you will turn in two critical responses to published work. One critical response will be due October 8 and the second will be due November 5. If there is a poem you feel strongly about and would like to knock these assignments out early, please do so. See assignment guidelines on Moodle. These two assignments will not be accepted late.

Final Portfolio

Your final portfolio should include 8-10 poems from the semester. See assignment guidelines posted on Moodle.

Grading Policy

Poetry is an art form. Assigning letter grades to art feels inauthentic because art is subjective. All writing assignments turned in on time will receive credit/no credit based on your effort to follow the prompt or model the forms we are examining at the time. The only way to receive a “bad grade” on a writing assignment is by failing to turn it in on time.

Grade Breakdown:

- Participation (discussion forums and any short reflection assignments): 20%
- Creative Exercises (turned in on Fridays): 20%
- Workshop (written feedback and conference attendance): 20%
- Critical responses: 20%
- Final portfolio: 20%

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

A = 92-100 %	B– = 80-81.9 %	C– = 70-71.9 %
A– = 90-91.9 %	C+ = 77-79.9 %	D = 60-69.9 %
B+ = 87-89.9 %	C = 72-76.9 %	F = 0-59.9 %

B = 82-86.9

Student & Academic Conduct

Per Office of the Provost: “All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).” Moreover, the expectations of this class are to create/share original work; plagiarism, in which creative work of another artist is passed off as one’s own, will not be tolerated.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <https://staging.umat.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct-2021-pdf>.

****The following guidelines are important reminders for any of your in-person courses, not necessarily our online-only section.****

COVID Requirements and Reminders as of August 30th

- Mask use is **required** within the classroom or laboratory.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don’t come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. Contact me via email as soon as possible for guidance on remote participation and make up work.
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.

Office for Disability Equity (ODE)

In keeping with University policy please remember –

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with ODE, please contact ODE in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and ODE to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity (ODE).

“Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult [ODE](#).

UM Food Pantry and Grizzly Cupboards

Students who are struggling to access food are encouraged to contact the UM Food Pantry at umpantry@mso.umt.edu for support. The UM Food Pantry is located in the ASUM offices in the southwest corner on first floor of the University Center. In addition to the UM Food Pantry, Grizzly Cupboards can currently be found on the Missoula College Campus in room 430, Trio Student Support Services in Lommasson Center room 180, and at AISS in suite 113 of the Payne Family Native American Center. You can follow the Food Pantry on Instagram at [um_pantry](#), like them on Facebook, and follow the blog at umpantry.substack.com.

Additional Resources for Students (*Please read carefully*)

We cover some intense topics in this course. Many students find the material relatable and perhaps distressing. I want to let you all know that there are services on campus you can access to help support you if you find yourself struggling.

Curry Health Center Counseling: Curry Health Center Counseling addresses the personal, behavioral, and mental health needs of UM students. They have licensed counselors and psychologists, as well as advanced graduate students. Individual appointments are \$25.00 and your initial consultation is free if you have paid the health fee for the semester. (If you have not paid the fee, you can pay at any time in the semester to access Curry.) You can call them at **243-4711**, and you can visit their website: <http://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/Counseling/default.php>.

Final Note

I get that life happens, you have other classes, you have other responsibilities, you have a lot on your plate or maybe you're juggling more than one plate, and we're all navigating a global pandemic. I get it. As stated above, communication is key. Email me to set up an appointment if anything arises that interferes with your coursework or to discuss appropriate accommodations.