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### CRWR 234.01: The Oval - Literary Magazine

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**CRWR 234 Section 01**  
**The Oval: Literary Magazine Studio**  
**Spring 2022**

**Instructor:** Robert Stubblefield

Office: LA 231

Email: robert.stubblefield@umontana.edu

Office hours: Monday 3:00-5:00 p.m., Tuesday 1:00-2:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-4:00 p.m. (reserved for capstone projects and by appointment), Thursday 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment on Zoom portal

**Classroom:** University Hall 210

**Class Meeting Time:** Monday, 6:00-8:50 p.m.

**Required Text and Materials:** *The Making of a Poem*: Mark Strand and Eavan Boland

A journal and folder for compiling all exercises, in-class and out-of-class responses, and assignments. You must have access to UM Online (Moodle) for required readings and postings.

**Course Objectives:**

This course is open to undergraduates who have completed at least one course in Creative Writing (CRWR). The class will be conducted in a studio format. We will focus on the editing, design, layout, and marketing of *The Oval*, The University of Montana undergraduate literary magazine. The opening portion of the class will focus on researching a sampling of literary journals from across the region and nation. We will also read, discuss, and develop responses to works published in well-established, wide-circulation literary magazines and commercial periodicals. We will individually and collectively develop criteria for content and design and each student will be expected to document and defend their aesthetic for chosen criteria. The class will include the evaluation and selection of prose, poetry, and visual art submissions to *The Oval*. Students will have both independent and collaborative responsibilities within and outside of class. The latter portion of the semester will include producing *The Oval* on deadline, scheduling launch events, and working cooperatively with sponsors and partners including The Student Involvement Network, The Mansfield Library, ASUM, and Alpha Printing and Graphics.

**Course Requirements:**

- **Writing Exercises:** All writing exercises and assignments will be turned in on the date due and must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins. Responses and exercises will focus on specific manuscripts and/or components or be of a specified length. Keep these in your working portfolio upon return.
- **Journal:** I expect you to keep a reading journal to develop and document informed, thoughtful responses to the texts and readings. Although we will not

- ask you to turn in these journals, we will occasionally ask for a typed excerpt (one page or less).
- Major Assignments (Portfolio): You will compile a portfolio including responses to texts and submissions in at least two genres, critiques of publications, and submission for *Oval* staff issue. Guidelines will be provided and sample portfolios will be available for viewing.

**Grading/Evaluation:**

You will be evaluated based on your active participation in class, performance regarding Oval activities and responsibilities, exercises and assignments, and your portfolio. **DO NOT MISS MORE THAN ONE (1) CLASS OR YOUR GRADE WILL BE AFFECTED**

- **40%** of your grade is based on active participation. Show up prepared, comment on required readings and the work of your peers, and contribute to the community of the classroom and Oval.
- **30%** of your grade is based on successful and timely completion of all assignments. These will include responses to readings, reviews, and manuscript evaluations. Assignments must be completed and submitted on time and all out-of-class work typed and double-spaced. You will receive credit for and responses to your exercises, but not a letter grade.
- **30%** of your grade is based on your final portfolio. Demonstrate the ability to incorporate course objectives, effectively critique manuscripts, and articulate and defend responses to submissions.

All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. 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. The Code is available for review online at: [Student Conduct Code](#)

**Students with Disabilities**

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me privately after class or in my office. Please be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS Coordinator.

**Important Dates and Deadlines:**

Monday, January 18, Martin Luther King Day, No Class

Monday, February 21, Presidents Day, No Class

Monday-Thursday, March 21-25, Spring Break, No Classes

Monday, May 9, Final Meeting

Deadlines: Access this link for information on drop/add deadlines and policies.

[Drop/Add Deadlines and Policies](#)

**Extracurricular Opportunities:**

Missoula is a vibrant literary community. Although not required, I suggest you take advantage of readings, conferences, and gatherings occurring this semester. I will announce upcoming events, but keep in mind the Second Wind Reading Series each Sunday night. Readings are frequently held on campus and at local bookstores.

**Calendar (Tentative and Subject to Change)**

Monday, January 24: Introductions and discussion of goals and objectives and presentation of timelines. Tabling, publicizing submissions, ASUM budgeting, classroom visits, editorial boards, Guest Reading/Lecture

Monday, January 31: *The Making of a Poem*, pages 1-120.

Monday, February 7 *The Making of a Poem*, pages 121-335. Presentation of poetry selections from selected literary journals.

Monday, February 14: Evaluating Fiction and Nonfiction. Criteria for excellence, consideration, and acceptance. Model stories/essays.

Monday, February 21: Presidents Day. No Class.

Monday, February 28: Presentation of short fiction and non-fiction selections from literary journals and/or commercial periodicals. *Oval* Submission Deadline!

Monday, March 7: In-class board meetings and preliminary selection discussions. Introduction of Layout template. Submission reading begins.

Monday, March 14: Board State of the Oval and Manuscript Selection update. Submission selection continues.

Monday, March 21: No class, Spring Break.

Monday March 28: Manuscript selections finalized and presented. Copyediting begins. Page proofs edited, approved, and distributed to contributors.

Monday, April 4: **FINAL** Editing and page proof editing, proofreading, and approval for presentation Alpha Graphics of M Printing and Graphics. Introduction to Staff Issue guidelines and editorial board assignments.

Monday, April 11: Workshopping and Manuscript selection and for Staff Issue Manuscript selections finalized for Staff Issue and Draft presented for proofing and final edits. Marketing and Publicity scheduling and event assigning.

Monday, April 18: Staff Issue Layout and online posting

Monday, April 25: Guest Lecture/Reading. Portfolios Due.

Monday, May 2: Staff Readings and launch of Staff Issue

Monday, May 9: Final Meeting. Debriefing, Editorial Nominations, Evaluations.

Other important dates:

Monday, February 28, Oval Submissions Close

Oval Launch and in collaboration with Mansfield Library: TBA

## The Oval: Literary Magazine Studio

### Portfolio Guidelines

- **Narrative introduction.** A brief letter of introduction for portfolio addressing your role in producing *The Oval*, what you have learned in the process, what you would choose to emphasize, change, retain. Consider this as addressed to the entire Oval class including your peers and professor.
- **Submission Evaluations: Specific to Genre.** Critique two acceptances and one rejection. Reference Strand, Boland/Hills and applicable editorial board standards as applicable. Consider a well-developed paragraph as roughly the length for discussion of each submission. Feel free to include bullet points for specific strengths/weaknesses. Consider this as a thoughtful, insightful, and helpful reply to the writer/artist.
- **Log of Tabling Hours and Out-of-Class Oval Activity**
- **Staff Issue Workshop Responses**
- **Oval Staff Submission (work of prose, poetry, or visual art, including draft and revision) and Abstract/Artist's Statement**
- **Oval Evaluation Rubric/Goals**