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John Frederick Nims to lecture at contemporary poetry workshop

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, MAY 26

Dr. John Frederick Nims, one of America's distinguished poets, will lecture at a workshop in contemporary poetry at Montana State University from June 12 to 24, according to Dr. Vedder Gilbert, chairman of the English department.

The workshop, co-sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English, has been planned for experienced teachers and for students who wish to write original verse. Participants may earn three credits. They will meet for a total of 28 class hours and will work under three professors.

Dr. Nims has published three books of original verse, "The Iron Pastoral" in 1947, "A Fountain in Kentucky" in 1950, and "Knowledge of the Evening" in 1960. His poetry appears in several anthologies and in literary magazines in England and America. A scholar in several languages, Dr. Nims has translated Spanish, Italian and Greek poetry. His most recent book has been lauded by critics in the Saturday Review, the New York Times and other publications, Dr. Gilbert said.

After receiving his Ph. D. in comparative literature from the University of Chicago, Dr. Nims taught one year at the University of Toronto before joining the faculty of Notre Dame, where he is a professor of English - of late years in absentia. In 1952-54 he taught American literature at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, and at the University of Florence.

During his second sojourn in Europe in 1958-60, he taught American studies in the University of Madrid and gave lectures at other universities in Spain, Italy, England and Poland. At present he is visiting editor of Poetry magazine.

Working with Dr. Nims will be two MSU professors, Dr. Seymour Betsky and Dr. Agnes Boner. Dr. Betsky specializes in literary criticism and will teach interpretation and criticism of contemporary poetry at the workshop. Dr. Boner will direct the workshop and conduct daily sessions on the teaching of English in high school.

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