Fall 9-1-2000

ENCR 211.01: Introduction to Creative Writing - Poetry

Judy Blunt

University of Montana - Missoula

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation
Blunt, Judy, "ENCR 211.01: Introduction to Creative Writing - Poetry" (2000). Syllabi. 5017.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/5017

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
I hope to spend our semester exploring the intricacies and extravagances of writing poetry, both by reading and responding to professional work and by generating, writing and revising our own poems. I will never expect beginning poets to produce professional results, but regardless of previous experience, career intent or overall interest, I will expect every student to respond to all assignments with honest effort and a certain attention to detail. Students who show effort and attention may expect to improve their understanding of the craft as well as their skill in developing poems.

During the first few class meetings we will review a glossary of terms and definitions in preparation for our own workshops. Students will read and discuss professional examples of poems and study the literary approaches necessary to the discussion and evaluation of another's work. Early assignments and writing exercises will focus on the generation of a few first-draft poems and ideas for more. Following this, students will begin submitting poems to workshop on a voluntary basis. In workshops, students are expected to read peer work carefully and share their responses to the work in a helpful fashion. Affectations and "personalities" have no place here.

Course requirements are subject to revision as the semester progresses. For instance, if our class discussions suggest to me that many students are not reading or preparing assignments, I will offer quizzes as a way of rewarding those who are. Conversely, if our workshops and craft discussions are productive, creative and lively, I may reduce outside reading and paper assignments to allow more time for generation and revision. At this point, I am requiring:

- A final portfolio of 6 poems, including at least three revised (workshopped) poems with previous drafts attached.
- A 3-4 page paper discussing some aspect of a contemporary poet's craft or approach to poetry, as evidenced in one of his/her books of poems. The paper will be graded on composition, as well as content.
- Mid-term and final exams based on our text and assigned readings.

The student who receives an "A" in my course will have completed all required assignments on time and rarely missed a class meeting. The student's work will show focus, energy and attention to detail. S/he will have come to workshop prepared, contributed to class discussion and spent time outside class revising his/her work. (This course depends heavily upon class participation. Cut four classes, and your final grade drops by one letter. Miss 8 classes for any reason, and you will be asked to drop the course.)

EXTRA CREDIT: Over the course of the semester, students will have many, many opportunities to attend poetry readings given by M.F.A. thesis candidates, UM faculty and visiting poets. Attendance at these events is not mandatory, but is recognized as a type of class participation and can only improve your grade.

Plagiarism: Submitting another's work as your own is particularly inexcusable behavior for creative writers. Please read the plagiarism warning in the UM Catalog, p. 18. Students guilty of plagiarism will receive an "F" in my course and the episode will be documented and reported to University authorities.