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ENCR 511.01: Graduate Poetry Workshop

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Course Description and Syllabus: Graduate Poetry Workshop

Greg Pape

The primary aim of the graduate poetry workshop is to offer serious student writers the opportunity to develop their creative and critical skills through the practice of writing and the study of literature. The term workshop indicates that the primary text is the student manuscript. The course involves critical analysis of students' work-in-progress, as well as reading and discussion of contemporary and traditional models.

Required Texts:


Suggested Reading:

The Practice of Poetry, Robin Behn & Chase Twitchell, eds., Harper Collins, 1992
A Poetry Handbook, Mary Oliver, Harcourt Brace, 1994
Rules For The Dance, Mary Oliver, Houghton Mifflin, 1998
Don't Ask, Philip Levine, University of Michigan Press, 1981 (There are a dozen or more other books in this series of poets on poetry.)
Poetics: Essays on the Art of Poetry, Paul Mariani & George Murphy, eds., Tendril, 1984

Letters to a Young Poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, Norton, 1934
Elegy, Larry Levis, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997 (I encourage you to read, and purchase if you can, as many books by contemporary poets as possible.)
Week 1 -- Introduction. In-class writing exercises. Reading assignment: _______. Writing assignment: _____________.

Week 2 -- Collect, collate, and distribute drafts. Discussion of reading and handouts.

Week 3 -- Collect, collate, and distribute drafts (put together worksheet). Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop: reading and discussion of student work and published poems (models, examples from classics to contemporaries).

Week 4 -- Put together worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 5 -- Put together worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 6 -- Put together worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 7 -- Put together worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 8 -- Put together worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 9 -- Worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 10 -- Worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 11 -- Worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 12 -- Worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 13 -- Worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 14 -- Worksheet. Reading assignment: ___________. Writing assignment: ___________. Workshop.

Week 15 -- Worksheet. Preparation of portfolios. Readings from portfolios