

2292F: Getting Well-Versed in the Craft: Introduction to Poetry (2021)

Section 650 (Online)
Instructor: David Barrick

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Office Hours: Email/by Zoom appointment

Course Objectives

Students will expand and refine their craft by exploring a variety of techniques and approaches to writing poetry, with a particular focus on these essential elements: imagery, voice, theme, pacing, structure (line breaks & stanzas), literary devices, sound, and rhythm. This will be achieved through the analysis of contemporary Canadian poets and through ongoing class workshops, forum discussions, and writing exercises. Students will also consider the larger context of Canadian literary community and how, as emerging writers, they might participate in it.

Students who successfully complete Writing 2292F should be able to do the following:

- Communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing to a range of audiences;
- Generate poem ideas, images, and drafts through writing exercises;
- Write using a variety of poetic approaches, including free verse, lyric/narrative techniques, formal verse, prose poetry, ekphrasis, and experimentation;
- Analyze the work of published poets;
- Work effectively with classmates, giving and receiving constructive feedback;
- Incorporate feedback into revisions of course work;
- Understand the importance of engaging with literary community in the form of researching publishers, reading journals/contemporary poets, attending readings, and submitting poems.

Required Texts

Best Canadian Poetry 2019. Ed. Rob Taylor. Windsor: Biblioasis, 2019. ISBN: 9781771963305

The Next Wave: An Anthology of 21st Century Canadian Poetry. Ed. Jim Johnstone. Windsor: Anstruther Books/Palimpsest Press, 2017. ISBN: 9781926794709

Oliver, Mary. *A Poetry Handbook*. Mariner Books: New York, 1994. ISBN: 9780156724005

Recommended Text

Clark, Kevin. *The Mind's Eye: A Guide to Writing Poetry*. New York: Pearson Longman, 2008. ISBN: 9780205498239

Course Requirements

<i>Term Work</i>	<i>Grade Value</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Poetry Analysis Essay	15%	Unit 3
Midterm Portfolio (2-3 polished poems, 45-60 lines total)	15%	Unit 5
Small Press Report (oral presentation)	10%	Unit 7
Final Chapbook Project (10 pages of polished poetry, revision notes)	40%	Unit 12
Online Peer Workshops	20%	Ongoing

Assignment Format

All assignments must be typed in Times New Roman 12pt font; make sure that prose assignments are double-spaced and that poetry assignments are single-spaced. All assignments must have your name, course name, section number, and the instructor's name on the first page. Whenever using sources in a paper, you will be expected to follow MLA style.

Submitting Assignments

Assignments are due on the date specified on their corresponding guidelines. **Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day unless I have granted you an extension.** You must request extensions *ahead* of the due date; they are not automatic, nor will they be granted retroactively.

In this course, you will submit the final version of all written assignments electronically (*.docx files only*), through OWL, to Turnitin.com. No hard copies are required. Do not fax or email assignments; do not drop off assignments anywhere on campus. Also, be aware that you are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments submitted.

Weekly Discussions/Participation

This course is entirely online and asynchronous, so you will be required to participate in weekly OWL discussion forums. These mandatory class discussions are based on the weekly readings and function as the equivalent of class attendance. Non-participation can result in a course grade penalty: 1) You may miss ONE discussion forum post without any penalty; 2) If you miss TWO or THREE discussion forum posts, you will receive a 5% penalty on your final course grade; 3) If you miss more than THREE posts, you will receive a 10% penalty on your final course grade. If you miss a discussion forum post for medical or compassionate reasons, please see Western's Accommodation and Consideration Policy (below) and contact me directly.

NOTE: the use of racist or any language that works against the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion will not be tolerated. Before posting, please review all your OWL comments to ensure that they are respectful and appropriate.

Office Hours/E-mail Policy

Since this course is entirely online and asynchronous, I will not be holding in-person office hours. Instead, I will be answering course questions and offering additional clarification/help through email (dbarric@uwo.ca) and Zoom appointments. I respond to e-mails within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me in 48 hours, please resend your message. I do not check e-mail on the weekend.

Scholastic Offences, including Plagiarism

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently Western and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>."

Note: In this course you will be required to submit an electronic copy of the final version of each of your essays to turnitin.com through your OWL site.

Prerequisites

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

The prerequisite for registration in this course is a) a final grade of 65 or more in one of Writing 2101F/G, 2125F/G (or the former 2121F/G), 2111F/G, 2130F/G, or 2131F/G; or b) a final grade of 70 or more in one of Writing 1000F/G, 1030F/G, 1031F/G, or c) Special Permission of the department.

Academic Accommodation and Consideration

Note: the official Western Accommodation Policy appears below. This is in effect, but may be modified temporarily by the university during the academic year as conditions change.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors by email within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence (SRA) are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation. All requests for consideration for assessments worth more than 30% of a final grade must be directed to the Academic Counselling office of a student’s Home Faculty.

In this course, all requests for academic consideration must be directed to the Academic Counselling office of the student’s Home Faculty if a SRA will not be used.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Other Important Links for Student Services:

Registrarial Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services: <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Special Requests: Special Examinations, Incomplete Standing, Aegrotat Standing

Please refer to the “Information for All Students in a Writing Course” for more detailed information. Briefly, remember that your instructor does not have the discretion to initiate, consider, or grant (or not) such requests; you must go directly to the Dean’s office of your home faculty.