

CRW 2300 – Poetry Writing – Section 2528 – Fall 2017

Instructor: Erin O’Luanaigh
Time: W 9-11 (4:05 –7:05 p.m.)
Location: Matherly Hall 0118
Office Hours: TBA
Email: eolunaigh@ufl.edu

Required Texts

Writing Poems [8th Ed.] by Michelle Boisseau, Hadara Bar-Nadav, & Robert Wallace
ISBN: 0205176054

The Open Door, ed. Don Share, Christian Wiman
ISBN: 9780226104010

Olives by A. E. Stallings
ISBN: 9780810152267

Handouts posted to Canvas will comprise much of our poetic reading this semester. You are expected to print and bring to class *all* handouts as they are assigned (including handouts from previous weeks).

Course Description & Objectives

This course is structured on the principle that in order to write poetry well, you must first read poetry well. Therefore, we’ll spend the first half of the semester reading, discussing, and studying poetry. In the second half, you’ll write poems of your own and workshop those written by your peers (while continuing to study great poets).

Our textbook, *Writing Poems*, will provide the principles and vocabulary for our discussions throughout the semester. We will use it to inform our readings and your own work.

In addition to the 8 poems required, you will write several critical papers. The semester will culminate in a final portfolio containing both the original and edited versions of all 8 of your poems, and a 1,000-word review of our assigned poetry book, *Olives*.

This course confers General Education credit for Composition (C), and also fulfills 6,000 of the University’s 24,000-word writing requirement (WR).

Course Policies and Procedures

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**.

This class meets once a week. If you miss one class, it is equivalent to missing an entire week. Therefore, after two absences, you will fail the course.

You are **not allowed** to miss a class period in which your poem is workshopped. If you do, you will receive a zero for that poem.

Arriving late or **leaving early** counts as one-third of an absence. Tardiness may be excused if the reason is acceptable (e.g. long exam in the previous class).

Expectations for Class Preparedness

Textbook reading and hand-outs will be assigned on a weekly basis. You are expected to come to class having read the material **thoroughly**. This means taking notes, underlining and marking important sections in your books, and fully annotating assigned poems. I will call on students at random throughout class for comment, discussion, and to read aloud. If you are not adequately prepared for class, I may dismiss you and mark you “absent” for that day.

This policy holds for the workshop portion of the course, when you will be expected to annotate your peers’ poems as thoroughly as you did the published ones. During the workshop portion, every student will be required to share at least four written comments per poem (two positive and two critical) during class discussion. Failure to annotate these poems will similarly result in dismissal and a mark of “absent” for that day.

You are expected to bring relevant materials to class, keep duplicate copies of all work submitted, and save all returned, graded work until the end of the semester.

Class business will be conducted through email and Canvas/E-learning. You are expected to check both platforms regularly.

Late Assignments

I don’t accept them. Manage your time wisely and be prepared to work hard.

I will consider requests for an extension with advance notification and documentation.

Respect

Respect is the most important feature of the creative writing classroom. We will be sharing our thoughts and, later, our poems with one another on a regular basis. This course **REQUIRES** an atmosphere of mutual respect at all times. Any disrespectful behavior will result in a dismissal and a mark of “absent” for that day.

Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices are not permitted during class. This means they should not only be off, but out of sight. Hats are not permitted in the classroom, except for religious purposes.

Statement on Academic Honesty

Plagiarism violates the Student Honor Code and requires reporting to the Dean of Students. All students must abide by the Student Honor Code: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Statement of Student Disability Services

Students with *disabilities* who are requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/), which will provide appropriate documentation to give the instructor.

Grade Policies & Appeals

For information on UF Grading policies, see:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

In 1000- and 2000- level courses, students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant. Grade appeals may result in a higher, unchanged, or lower final grade.

Course Evaluations

Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>

List of Assignments

8 Poems (at 20 points each)	160	
Practice Workshop	10	
Workshop Participation (at 20 points each)	120	
“What is Poetry?” essay	10	[300 words]
Critical Paper 1	40	[1,000 words]
Critical Paper 2	50	[1,000 words]
Critical Paper 3	60	[1,000 words]
Critical Paper 4	100	[1,300 words]
Memorized Recitation & Presentation	120	
Poem Revision Response	10	[200 words]
Portfolio		
Cover	10	
Artist’s Statement	10	[200 words]
Final Poems + Revisions	200	
Book Review	100	[1,000 words]
Total Points	1000	[6,000 words]

Description of Major Assignments

Poems

Points: 8 poems at 20 points each = 160 points

You will turn in 8 poems to assigned prompts (issued the week prior to each poem's due date).

Note: The first 2 poems you turn in will NOT be workshopped and ONLY have to be submitted in hard copy.

Poem Submission Requirements

After the first 2 poems, all poems must be turned in to me via email **AND** hard copy on the day they are due. I must receive emailed poems **before class begins** (in .pdf, .doc, or .docx format), and hard copies when I ask for them in class. Failure to hand in either the hard copy or electronic copy will result in a penalty.

If I receive neither the emailed copy nor hard copy on the day the assignment is due, you will receive no credit, unless you have previously arranged for an extension. No excuses or exceptions.

All poems must be formatted as follows:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- In the upper-left-hand corner:
 - your name
 - the class name (CRW 2300)
 - the assignment's title (given on each prompt handout)
 - the date
- printed on 8 ½" x 11" white, smooth-edged paper
- **single-spaced!** (N.B. There is nothing so unsightly as a double-spaced poem!)

Workshops

Points: 6 workshops at 15 participation points each = 90 points

Quite simply, students should be vocal but respectful participants in workshop. Be prepared with printed copies and ample written comments.

Workshop procedure: Poems are due the week before they will be workshopped. I will review your submitted poems, determine which poems will be workshopped, and send you copies of those poems by email. (Not **every** poem will be workshopped **every** week!) When you receive the emailed poems, it will be your responsibility to print one copy of each and mark them with feedback. Prepare at least two positive and two critical comments per poem. You **must bring all poems to class** on the day of workshop.

Practice Workshops

10 points

Before we workshop each other's poems, we'll hold a "dress rehearsal" or practice workshop. You'll come to class with prepared comments on previously-assigned take-home poems and we'll walk through the process together.

Your grade will be based on attendance, participation, and the quality and number of comments on the hard copies of the workshoped poems (which you'll turn in to me at the end of the practice).

Memorized Recitation & Poem Presentation

Points: 90 points for recitation, 30 points for presentation

Each of you will recite a memorized poem before the class. The poem must be at least 14 lines long. **Note:** You may **NOT** recite only the first 14 lines of a longer poem. It must be complete. I must approve your chosen poem.

After your recitation, you will give an informal presentation about your chosen poem. More information will be provided in a handout as we get closer to the due-date.

Critical Papers

Points: 40 points for Paper 1, 50 for Paper 2, 60 for Paper 3, 100 for Paper 4 = 250 points
Word Count: (1,000 words x 3 papers) + (1,300 words x 1 paper) = 4,300 words

Critical papers will require you to actively engage with various poetic readings and/or textbook chapters. Specific requirements for each paper will be issued in assignment handouts.

Paper Submission Requirements

Critical papers must be turned in to me via Canvas **AND** hard copy on the day they are due. Papers should be uploaded to Canvas **before class begins**. Hard copies must be handed to me when I ask for them in class. Failure to hand in either the hard copy or electronic copy will result in a penalty.

If I receive neither emailed copy or hard copy on the day the assignment is due, you will receive no credit, unless you have previously arranged for an extension. No excuses or exceptions.

All papers must be formatted as follows:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- In the upper-left-hand corner:
 - your name
 - the class name (CRW 2300)
 - the assignment's title
 - the date
- 1" margins on all sides
- printed on 8 ½" x 11" white, smooth-edged paper
- **double-spaced**

Book Review

Points: 100

Word Count: 1,000

We will be reading A. E. Stallings's *Olives* during the last weeks of the semester. We will discuss limited selections from the book in class so that you may form your own opinions while reading. This assignment will be the culmination of our critical work.

Submission requirements for this assignment are the same as the "Paper Submission Requirements" outlined in the box on the previous page.

Final Portfolio

Points: Cover (10) + Artist's Statement (10) + Poems and Revisions (200) = 220 points

Word Count: 200 (for Artist's Statement)

Your final portfolio will include 8 poems which have been revised from their original states, taking into account my feedback and the feedback of your peers. (Learning to edit your own work is an important component of this class and a vital skill for any future writing.)

Your portfolio should include 2 copies of each poem: the original poem you turned in **with** my comments, and a clean copy of your revised poem.

Your portfolio must also have an elegantly designed cover (which we will discuss later) and an “Artist’s Statement” of 200 words. This statement must tell me the story of your writing—its origins, influences, and goals—and any threads throughout your collected poems that you would like to highlight. Again, we will discuss this in greater detail later.

Extra Credit Opportunities

You may earn extra credit by attending the MFA@FLA reading series—readings of poetry and fiction by students in UF’s MFA Program. These readings take place on Thursday nights from 8-9 p.m. at The Bull. (The Bull is a bar, but you needn’t be over 21 to attend. You **DO**, however, need to be over 21 to drink.) I will post a schedule on Canvas when it becomes available.

You may also earn extra credit by attending the MFA@FLA’s 2017 Writers Festival, a weekend’s worth of readings and craft talks by renowned poets and writers. As with the student reading series, I will provide more information when a schedule becomes available.

Each reading attended (with a short paragraph of at least 50 words, reviewing the experience) is worth 5 points of extra credit. If you attend all readings (including faculty readings or any other reading events that occur throughout the semester) you can earn approximately 50 extra credit points.

Tentative Schedule

N.B.: “Reading Assignments” will be discussed in the following class.

Class 1: August 23

- **Lecture/Discussion:** Syllabus & Introductions
- **Reading Assignment:** *Writing Poems*, Chapter 1
Open Door, pgs. 1-21
- **Homework:** “What is Poetry?” (300 words, hard-copy only)
POEM #1 (hard-copy only)

Class 2: August 30

- **Lecture/Discussion:** *WP*, *OD*, & various in-class readings
- **Due:** “What is Poetry?” essay
POEM #1
- **Reading Assignment:** *Writing Poems*, Chapters 2 & 3
Open Door, TBA
Canvas Poem Packet #1
- **Homework:** Critical Paper 1 (1,000 words)

Class 3: September 6

- **Lecture/Discussion:** *WP*, *OD*, & Poem Packet #1
- **Due:** Critical Paper 1
- **Reading Assignment:** *Writing Poems*, Chapter 4

Open Door, TBA
Canvas Poem Packet #2

- **Homework:** Critical Paper 2 (1,000 words)
POEM #2

Class 4: September 13

- **Lecture/Discussion:** *WP*, *OD*, & Poem Packet #2
- **Due:** **POEM #2 (hard copy only)**
- **Reading Assignment:** *Writing Poems*, Chapter 5
Open Door, TBA
- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 2

Class 5: September 20

- **Lecture/Discussion:** *WP*, *OD*, & free verse handouts
- **Due:** Critical Paper 2
- **Reading Assignment:** *Writing Poems*, Chapter 6
Open Door, TBA
Canvas Poem Packet #3
- **Homework:** Critical Paper 3 (1,000 words)

Class 6: September 27

- **Lecture/Discussion:** *WP*, *OD*, & Poem Packet #3
- **Reading Assignment:** *Writing Poems*, Chapters 7 & 8
Open Door, TBA
Canvas Poem Packet #4
- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 3
Start researching poem for memorization/presentation

Class 7: October 4

- **Lecture/Discussion:** *WP*, *OD*, & Poem Packet #4
- **Due:** Critical Paper 3
- **Reading Assignment:** *Writing Poems*, Chapters 9 & 10
Open Door, TBA
- **Homework:** Critical Paper 4 (1,300 words)
Prepare notes for practice workshop poems
Continue researching poem for memorization/presentation
POEM #3

Class 8: October 11

- **PRACTICE WORKSHOP**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Workshop Guidelines & How-to, *WP* & *OD*
- **Due:** Selected poem for memorization/presentation
POEM #3
- **Reading Assignment:** *Open Door*, TBA

Canvas Poem Packet #5

- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 4
Begin memorization
POEM #4

Class 9: October 18

- **WORKSHOP #1**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** *OD* & Poem Packet #5
- **Due:** **POEM #4**
- **Reading Assignment:** *Open Door*, TBA
Canvas Poem Packet #6
- **Homework:** Continue Critical Paper 4
Continue memorization
POEM #5

Class 10: October 25

- **WORKSHOP #2**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** *OD* & Poem Packet #6
- **Due:** Critical Paper 4
POEM #5
- **Reading Assignment:** Chapter 11 in *Writing Poems*
Canvas Poem Packet #7
- **Homework:** Continue memorization
POEM #6

Class 11: November 1

- **WORKSHOP #3**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** *WP*, Poem Packet #7, & Revision Lecture
- **Due:** **POEM #6**
- **Reading Assignment:** Canvas Poem Packet #8
- **Homework:** Revision Response Paper
Continue memorization
POEM #7

Class 12: November 8

- **WORKSHOP #4**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Poem Packet #8
- **Due:** Revision Response Paper
POEM #7
- **Reading Assignment:** *Olives* (Parts I & II)
- **Homework:** Continue memorization
POEM #8

Class 13: November 15

- **WORKSHOP #5**

- **Poem Recitations/Presentations**
- **Due: POEM #8**
- **Reading Assignment:** *Olives* (Parts III & IV)
- **Homework:** Book Review
Start Final Portfolio

NO CLASS November 22 (Thanksgiving Break)

Class 14: November 29

- **WORKSHOP #6**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** *Olives*
- **Reading Assignment:** N/A
- **Homework:** Book Review
Continue Final Portfolio

Class 15: December 6

- **PARTY & STUDENT READING**
- **Lecture/Discussion:** Final Thoughts
- **Due: Final Portfolio & Book Review**

Grading Scale

A	4.0 93-100 930-1000	C	2.0 73-76 730-769
A-	3.67 90-92 900-929	C-	1.67 70-72 700-729
B+	3.33 87-89 870-899	D+	1.33 67-69 670-699
B	3.0 83-86 830-869	D	1.0 63-66 630-669
B-	2.67 80-82 800-829	D-	0.67 60-62 600-629
C+	2.33 77-79 770-799	E	0.00 0-59 0-599

Grading Criteria

Grade	Essays	Poems
A	An "A" paper responds to the assignment prompt in full. It presents an original, specific, and clearly-worded argument supported by sufficient evidence from authoritative sources. Writing style is engaging, clear, and concise, and the paper employs a logical organization. It is free from mechanical or formatting errors and cites sources properly.	An "A" poem responds to the assignment prompt in full. It uses vivid and carefully considered language and follows an original and cohesive vision. It employs poetic techniques discussed in class to a constructive purpose. Its sentences make complete grammatical sense and it is free from mechanical or formatting errors.

B	A “B” paper responds to the assignment prompt. It presents an original argument, but ideas may need further development or clearer articulation. The argument is supported by evidence. Writing style is generally clear and organization is logical, but there is room for improvement. There are very few mechanical errors and sources are cited properly.	A “B” poem responds to the assignment prompt. It presents a unique vision, but ideas may need further development. It uses poetic techniques but could be doing more to bring craft and drama to the poem. Language used is effective but may need some refining. There are very few mechanical errors.
C	A “C” paper may not fully respond to the prompt. Argument is overly broad or in need of clarification and development. Some evidence is used to support the argument, but claims are not sufficiently defended. Writing style lacks clarity and organization is problematic. Several mechanical errors or incorrect citations.	A “C” poem may not fully respond to the prompt. Vision is disjointed or overly clichéd. Poetic techniques are not used to their fullest potential. Language seems hastily chosen or unoriginal. There are several mechanical errors.
D	A “D” paper does not fully respond to the assignment prompt. Argument is underdeveloped or nonexistent. Little or no evidence is used to support claims. Writing style and organization are unclear. Many mechanical errors or incorrect citations.	A “D” poem does not fully respond to the assignment prompt. Poem seems hastily written with little overall vision to hold it together, unoriginal word choices, and many mechanical errors. Poetic techniques are missing or misused.
E	An “E” paper fails to respond to the assignment prompt (including papers that do not meet the minimum word requirement). Late or plagiarized papers will also receive an “E.”	An “E” poem fails to respond to the assignment prompt. Poems that are late or plagiarized will also receive an “E.”