CRW 3310   **Advanced Poetry Writing**
                                            Fall 2017 Syllabus

Professor Ange Mlinko
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Office hours: Before class or by appointment

Required text: *The Zoo of the New: Poems to Read Now* (eds. Laird & Paterson)

This is an advanced poetry workshop. Poems will be judged on their creativity with the given prompt; each week you will be responsible for showing me a first draft and second draft (the second draft will be workshopped). You will also hand-write a poem from the textbook and turn it in, and memorize a poem from the book by Thanksgiving (for recitation in class). At the end of the semester, you will turn in a portfolio of at least ten poems written for this class (including drafts) and a 1500-word essay on a poet you discovered in the textbook.

I will conduct the workshop as follows:

1) You will bring 2 paper copies of your poem to class, and send me an electronic copy by the beginning of the class period. If you haven't sent it to me by beginning of class, you won't be workshopped.
2) You must turn in one paper copy of your assignment to me in class. No late work accepted. If you are absent, you skip being critiqued that week. The other paper copy is for your workshop group.
3) For each poem you write, you must turn in a first draft and an improved revision done on a different day. (I want to see that you worked on more than one draft during the week.)
4) You must also write out, by hand, a poem (at least 14 lines) from the textbook, and turn them in with your typed poem.
5) You must bring your book and materials to class each week.
6) Attendance is required, and lateness will be penalized. If you miss more than two classes, your grade will depreciate by half a letter grade for each subsequent absence. (If you are chronically late, 3 latenesses will count as one absence.) **I do not accept late work**. Failure of technology is not an excuse. Assignments must be submitted by the correct time on the day assigned, in 10- or 12-point Times Roman font, single-spaced.
7) All submissions to workshop must be proofread, with correct grammar, usage, and spelling. (A good dictionary and style manual is essential.) Your name must appear on every page, and each draft must be labeled "first" and "second." (And put your name in your file name when you email it to me.)

Your final grade will consist of 75% presence and participation, 25% final portfolio of at least 10 poems (with revisions) and a report on your chosen poet.

A's will only be given to portfolios (25%) that show imaginative promise in terms of subject matter or style.

There will be no open screens in the classroom.

Prompts

1 - Write a 14-line cento, collaging other poets' lines using only poems from the anthology *The Zoo of the New*. All the lines have to be the same syllable length: either 8 or 10 syllables. Choose only one line length. No rhyming.

2 - Write a 14-line poem like James Merrill's "b o d y" where you choose a word (your favorite word?) and make all the letters take on a different character. What do the letters remind you of? ("b o d y")

3 - Write a 14-line poem in negative constructions.

4 - Consider the question "What Is the Language Using Us For?" (see poem by same name). Write your poem, 25 lines, in answer to this question. (See also "The Word," "Phrase-Book")

5 - Write a 14-line poem about a place you know nothing about but that provokes the imagination ("Adlestrop")

6 - Write a one-sentence-long sonnet, 10 syllables per line, 14 lines. No rhyming. The poem must be about a memory from childhood. Watch out for clichés. ("A Hill," "Those Winter Sundays") ("To a Friend Whose Work Has Come to Nothing" "What Lips My Lips Have Kissed …; "When I Consider How My Light is Spent" "When I Have Fears")

7 - Describe a small beautiful object ("A Green Crab's Shell") in 20 lines long or short.

8 - Write a twenty-line poem in dialogue with a stranger ("The Stranger").

9 - Write a 30-line philosophical poem about death ("Aubade," "Black Stone Over a White Stone")

10 - A poem of repetiotions in 20 lines. See how different emotions are evoked by repetition in "In the Middle of the Road," "Meeting Point," "The Lie," and "Daddy."

Schedule

Aug 22 - Introduction to course; discussion of metrics, cliché, feeling.
Aug 24 - Discussion

Aug 29 - Workshop Prompt 1
Aug 31 - Discussion

Sep 5 - Workshop Prompt 2
Sep 7 - Discussion

Sep 12 - Workshop Prompt 3
Sep 14 - Discussion

Sep 19 - Workshop Prompt 4
Sep 21 - Discussion

Sep 26 - Workshop Prompt 5
Sep 28 - Discussion

Oct 3 - Workshop Prompt 6
Oct 5 - Discussion

Oct 10 - Workshop Prompt 7
Oct 12 - Discussion

Oct 17 - Workshop Prompt 8
Oct 19 - Discussion

Oct 24 - Workshop Prompt 9
Oct 26 - Discussion

Oct 31 - Workshop Prompt 10
Nov 2 - Discussion

Nov 7 - Workshop revisions
Nov 9 - Discussion

Nov 14 - Workshop revisions
Nov 16 - Discussion

Nov 21 - Recitations

Nov 28 - Workshop last revisions
Nov 30 - Discussion

Dec 5 - Turn in Portfolio