

**Chaminade University
EN 303, Poetry Writing**

**Fall Day Term, 2018
Instructor, James Kraus**

Note: This course uses a site called “Edwebs Moodle,” rather than Canvas. Students interested in taking the course should email the instructor for an enrollment key after creating an account on this system.

Course url: <http://www.edwebs.activemoodle.com/course/view.php?id=210> (To open new account, click on “Create new account.” For course enrollment key or for guest access, contact <jkraus@chaminade.edu>.

**Instructor contact information: jkraus@chaminade.edu, ph. 808-735-4877
Mail: 3140 Waialae Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816, Henry Hall 206-d.**

Office Hours: Monday, 11 a.m. - noon; Tuesday, 9 - 10 a.m.; Wednesday, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.; Thursday, 2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

Humanities Division Front Desk: ph. 808-735-4827

Course Pre-requisite: EN 102, Expository Writing

• System Requirements:

- Laptop computer running Firefox browser <<http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>>; Zotero plugin recommended <<http://www.zotero.org/>>
- Must be able to successfully log on to the Chaminade Sullivan Library "Films on Demand" service. To test this, go to the following url. If you are off campus, you will need to log in with your Chaminade Portal ID and password.
- <https://login.ezproxy.chaminade.edu/login?url=http://fod.infobase.com/PortalPlaylists.aspx?seriesID=1324>
- **Web site is mobile-accessible; however, access via personal computer or tablet (iPad or equivalent) is required for full participation in the course.**

Technical Support: Contact instructor first with all technical problems.

Course Description

This online course in poetry writing examines the techniques of contemporary poetry and provides practice in writing original poetry. The course provides opportunity for students to explore their motives for creative writing and to "try on" a variety of approaches.

Throughout the course, writing projects are submitted via the course web site and are thereby available for discussion by the entire class. Background reading is required from various texts, most of which are

available free via the course web site. The course itself is conducted as a workshop, with student writing frequently at the center of discussion.

The objectives of this course cover the general scope of poetry writing from the point of view of the author.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student should have:

- * An increased understanding of what motivates people to write poetry
- * An increased knowledge of key terminology associated with the writing of poetry
- * An increased awareness of the readings considered to be a part of any poet's basic knowledge
- * A clear understanding of various ways of developing poems
- * Knowledge of how to initiate poetic ideas
- * An increased awareness of major poetic genres
- * A general knowledge of how poetry is presented to the public

English Major Program Learning Outcomes (PLO):

- Proficiency in writing through an analytical literary research paper.
- Proficiency in creative writing through an original production of poetry, fiction, or non-fiction.
- The ability to define various literary critical approaches and apply them to given texts.
- The ability to define, identify and articulate major movements/periods in British and American literature.
- The ability to critically analyze significant authors, texts, and issues in British and American Literature

Texts

Most texts for this course are available free online. Students may read texts online, thus saving the costs of printing, or they may print out copies on their home computers. One text should be purchased from the Chaminade Bookstore: "Invitation to Poetry," edited by Robert Pinsky.

The course will also make use of the following two web sites:

The Academy of American Poets: <http://www.poets.org>; <http://www.poetryfoundation.org>

Requirements

- Participation (timely participation in online activities) (approximately 20%)
- Writing exercises and workshops (timely posting of assignments to course web site (approximately 20%)
- Journal (approximately 10%)
- Portfolio / essay (approximately 25%)
- Final exam (approximately 25%)

Participation

Regular and timely participation in online discussion forums is necessary for success in this course.

Writing Exercises

Weekly writing exercises are submitted via the course web site. These writing exercises are considered to be "poems in progress."

Portfolio / essay

One essay of approximately 900 words is due at the end of the term. In general, the essay is evaluated with regard to: 1. organization, 2. clarity, 3. correctness, 4. conciseness, and 5. creativity.

The portfolio is a collection of at least 5 poems completed during the term along with the essay. Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible in the construction of the portfolio.

Final Exam

The final exam consists of one or more essay questions which will be distributed during the week prior to the exam. The exam is closed book. It must be submitted via the course web site in a proctored situation. Exams will be scheduled on campus during final exam week.

Grading Scale

Where numeric grades are concerned the following scale will apply: A = 90 - 100 (A- = 93, A = 95 - 100); B = 80 - 89.9 (B- = 83, B = 85, B+ = 88); C = 70 - 79.9 (C- = 73, C = 75, C+ = 78); D = 60 - 69.9.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

- All material submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be written by the registered student. While students are strongly encouraged to consult sources outside the required reading of the course, they are also responsible for clearly stating the nature of their sources. Statements of "common knowledge" are generally exempt from this scholarly requirement
- Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of someone else's ideas as your own. Plagiarism in this course will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment and possible failure for the course.
- If the instructor suspects plagiarism, the burden of proof of the originality of the writing lies with the student. Evidence of originality would include copies of early drafts of the writing, research and interview notes, as well as the ability to discuss the themes of the writing with the instructor. Students should consider their instructor's vigilance in such matters a normal part of the academic process and should be prepared to present evidence of originality if requested.
- Students are strongly advised to save files of early drafts of essays, along with outlines, research notes and other supporting documentation, as the instructor may at any time require that they be presented.

Tentative Course Overview

Weeks 1 and 2 -- The Image

Readings: selected poems by Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams and others
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Week 3 - Metaphor and Simile

Readings: selected poems by James Wright and others
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Week 4 -- The Poetic Line

Readings: selections from the poetry of Poetry of Emily Dickinson
Documentary film: "Voices and Visions: Emily Dickinson"
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Week 5 – Voice

Readings: selected poems by William Butler Yeats, William Carlos Williams, T.S. Eliot
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Week 6 -- Poetry and Dream

Readings: selected poems by Guillaume Apollinaire, Michael Benedikt, Robert Desnos and others
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Week 7 – Some Forms

Readings: Shakespeare's Sonnets
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Weeks 8 and 9 -- Repetition and Music

Readings: selected poems by Sylvia Plath
Documentary film: "Voices and Visions: Sylvia Plath"
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Weeks 10 and 11-- Family, Death and Grief

Readings: selected poems by Ezra Pound
Documentary film: "Voices and Visions: Ezra Pound"
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Weeks 12 and 13 – The Body and Writing the Erotic

Readings selected poems by Adrienne Rich
Writing prompts, online postings, discussions and workshops

Week 14 and 15 – Ecopoetry and the Poetry of Place

Readings: selected poems by William Stafford
Online postings, discussions and workshops