

Instructor: Dr. Nelson Sager Office: MAB 112D Office Hours: T-Th 9-11; W 9-11; others by appt.
 tele.: 837-8153 // e-mail: nsager@sulross.edu

OBJECTIVES: (1) to familiarize students with the terms, forms, and techniques of writing poetry; (2) to help students develop personal writing processes (stimulus, production, revision) for creating their own poetry; (3) to help students produce a portfolio of poetry they have created; (4) to guide students in producing a selection of poems to be submitted for publication (5) to give students the opportunity to present their poetry orally in a formal reading. (6) Graduate students will learn to express the process for constructing and creating written poems in a set of instructions that clearly explain process of writing both free verse and formal formatted poetry, indicating that they can clearly inform other students of techniques used in writing all forms of poetry.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

[1] Attendance; Counting the night of the final meeting, there are 16 meetings of this class; each one is worth two points in the compilation of your grade in the course. The criteria of attendance is actual appearance in the classroom, plus participation in discussion, exercises, work-shopping, or whatever comprises the activities for the class meeting (32 pts); [2] Completion of Categories of Poetry: As the class examines various types, forms, and formats for poetic expression, students will be required to attempt writing poems from six different groups: (1) a poem effectively using meter; (2) a poem effectively using rhyme; (3) a poem in an open stanza form; (4) a poem written in a closed stanza form; (5) a free verse poem with the emphasis on effective verbal imagery; (6) a free verse or formal lyric poem in which the voice is not your own (30 pts); [3] Submission of Poetry for Publication: This is the most significant assignment in the class, preparation of three to five poems for submission to a magazine or journal in print. These must be mailed by May 04, 2016; the student must show the instructor a post office receipt for the manuscript of poems mailed (30 pts); [4] participation in final poetry reading of poems (10 pts). There may be opportunities during the semester for bonus points from out-of-class projects and participation in readings on and off campus. For example, to perfect and practice the art of writing poetry, one can create poems on a regular schedule; any extra poems created beyond the format poems and the poems for publication are worth 1 point per poem per week during the semester (i.e. the possibility of 16 bonus points). [5] Students taking this class for graduate credit must construct a manual of techniques used to write both free verse and formatted formal poetic forms. (20 pts)

Type of Submitted Assignment	Points possible for assignment	Rules applying to increased points
Any submitted poem of two lines or more i.e. (couplet, haiku, etc.)	one point per poem	can be upgraded if workshopped
Any submitted poem for work-shopping of stanza length (Minimum of four lines) quatrain	three points per poem	can be upgraded if the poem meets the category requirements
Poems submitted that meet category requirements	five points per poem	can be upgraded if the poem is submitted for publication
Poems submitted for publication	six points per poem	only assignment counted twice

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ATTENDANCE POLICY: The current Sul Ross Catalog states that missing the equivalent of nine (9) MWF (50 minute) classes makes the student eligible for an administrative drop from the class. After missing six (6) in a Tues-Thurs class, a student can be administratively dropped from this course with an F grade.

TEXTS: Clark, Kevin. *The Mind=s Eye: a Guide to Writing Poetry*. New York: Pearson/Longman: 2008. Abbreviated as ME in the schedule.

Fry, Stephen. *The Ode Less Travelled: Unlocking the Poet Within*. New York: Penguin (Gotham Books), 2005. Abbreviated as OLT in the schedule.

English 3321 Tentative Schedule of Reading Assignments and Activities:

Jan 26 Reading Assignment: *ME* Chapter 2, pp. 25-38; Chapter 3, pp. 39-52

1st hour: discuss poetry examples in chaps 1, 2, and 3, in terms of imagery, tropes and voice and sound.

2nd hour: continue discussion // demonstation of workshopping and workshopping of student poems

3rd hour: practice workshopping of submitted poems

Feb 02 Reading Assignment: *ME* Chapter 4, pp. 53-72; Chapter 5, pp. 73-90

Feb 09 Reading Assignment: *ME* Chapter 6, pp. 92-106; Chapter 7, pp. 107-120

Feb 16 Reading Assignment: *ME* Chapter 8, pp. 121-139; *OLT*, pp. 292; Chapter 9, pp. 140-151

Feb 23 Reading Assignment: *ME* Chapter 10, pp. 152-165; Chapter 11, pp. 166-175

Mar 01 Reading Assignment: *ME* Chapter 12, pp. 176-188; Chapter 13, pp. 189-20

Mar 08 Reading Assignment: *ME* Chapter 14, pp. 205-215; Chapter 15, pp. 216-228; *OLT*, pp. xi-xxv

Spring Break: March 14-18

Mar 22 Reading Assignment: *OLT* pp. 1-20; *OLT* pp. 21-54

March 29 Reading Assignment: pp. 55-75; *OLT* pp. 77-95

Apr 05 Reading Assignment: pp. 123-142; *OLT* pp. 143-169

Apr 12 Reading Assignment: *OLT* pp. 171-190; *OLT* pp. 191-208

Apr 19 Reading Assignment: *OLT* pp. 209-220; 221-146; *OLT* pp. 247-260; 261-273

Apr 26 Reading Assignment: *OLT* pp. 274-280; 293-305; *OLT*, pp. 307-327

May 03 Present personal techniques used in writing poetry

May 04 Deadline for submission of poems in required formats and proof of submitted poems for publication

May 10 Student Presentations of Poems (Formal Reading)