

Syllabus: English 3321:001 Creative Writing: Poetry Spring Semester 2019 Wed. evening 6:00-8:50 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Nelson Sager Office: MAB 112D Office Hours: Tues., Wed., 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.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

[1] Attendance; Counting the night of the final, there are sixteen (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 or on-line. These must be turned in by May 08, 2019; (18-30 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 for work-shopping 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 12 bonus points).

Type of Submitted Assignment	Points possible for assignments	Rules applying to increased points
Any poem submitted for work-shopping of two lines or more i.e. (couplet, haiku, ballad stanza, sonnet, etc.)	one point per poem	can be upgraded if work-shopped and submitted as a category poem with necessary features
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

The major assignments will be graded numerically on the basis of the values listed in the preceding chart. Points from attendance and graded assignments completed will be totaled to arrive at a course average. The course letter grade will be based on letter grade equivalents to the numerical class average as follows:

[89.51-100+ = A] [79.51-89.50 = B] [69.51-79.50 = C] [60 -69.50 = D] [Below 60 = F]

Text: Drury, John. *Creating Poetry*. Writer's Digest Books, 1991. ISBN: 9781582974637.

Suggested Reference Texts:

Drury, John. *the poetry dictionary*. 2nd edition. Writer's Digest Books, 2006. ISBN: 9781582973296.

Tentative Reading Assignments and Activities for the Course:

Jan 23 Intro to class; lecture/discussion: a paradigm of poetry {i.e. How do we define poetry, as opposed to other literary generic forms?} Reading Assignment: *Creating Poetry, Introduction, pp. 2-7*.

Jan 30 Reading Assignment: Chapter I, "Preparing," pp. 9-24

Feb 06 Reading Assignment: Chapter II, "Language," pp. 25-41.

Feb 13 Reading Assignment: Chapter III, "Sight," pp. 42-51.

Feb 20 Reading Assignment: Chapter IV, "Sound," pp. 52-62.

Feb 27 Reading Assignment: Chapter V, "Movement," pp. 63-84.

Mar 06 Reading Assignment: Chapter VI, "Shaping," pp. 85-100.

Mar 12 Reading Assignment: Chapter VII, "Patterns and Traditions," pp. 101-136.

Mar 18 through Mar 29: Spring Break (no class)

Apr 03 Reading Assignment: Chapter VIII, "Voice," pp. 137-146.

Apr 10 Reading Assignment: Chapter IX, "Sources of Inspiration," pp. 147-166.

Apr 17 Reading Assignment: Chapter X, "Things to Write About," pp. 167-179.

Apr 24 Reading Assignment: Chapter XI, "Other Arts, Other Influences," pp.181-190.

May 01 Reading Assignment: Chapter XII, "Finishing," and Appendix, "Submitting Poems, pp. 191-201

May 08 Deadline for submission of all required assignments, counted in averaging the course letter grade.

May (14 or 15)[final week schedule not yet established: Formal Reading of Poems Created in Class