

**Syllabus: English 3321:001 Creative Writing: Poetry Spring Semester 2021 Wed. 6:00-8:50 p.m.**  
**Instructor: Dr. Nelson Sager Office: MAB 112D Office Hours: Tues., Wed., 9-11 others by appt.**  
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**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.

**Texts: Koozer, (1) Ted. *The Poetry Home Repair Manual* (ppbk) ISBN: 9780803259782. 2007. PHRM in reading assignments and (2) Haas, Robert. *A Little Book on Form*. (ppbk) ISBN: 9780062332431. 2018. LBOF in reading assignments.**

### **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 (30-32 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 or formal poem with the **emphasis on effective verbal imagery**; (6) a free verse or formal lyric poem **in which the voice is not your own** (5-30 pts);

[3] Submission of Poetry for Publication: This is the most significant assignment in the class, preparation of three to five poems and a cover letter, for submission to a magazine or journal in print or on-line. These must be turned in by May 07, 2021; (18-30 pts);

[4] participation in final poetry reading of poems (10 pts).

<b>Type of Submitted Written Assignment</b>	<b>Points possible for assignments</b>	<b>Rules applying to increased points</b>
Any poem submitted of two lines or more i.e. (couplet, haiku, ballad stanza, sonnet, etc.)	one point per poem	upgraded if work-shopped and submitted as a category poem with necessary features
Any submitted poem for workshopping 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 = E]

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 submitted but not work-shopped are worth 1 point per poem per week during the semester (i.e. the possibility of about 12 bonus points).

#### **Summation of Required Activity Points Possible:**

**Attendance: 30 possible (2 pts. For each class meeting attended)**

**Poems submitted for work-shopping with no designated format: 3pts each possible**

**Attempted Format Poems Submitted for work-shopping: 30 possible pts.**

**Submitted Poems for Publication Assignment: 18-30 possible pts.**

**Formal Reading of Poems on Final Night: 10 possible pts.**

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For more information see: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/1384/accessibility-services>

#### **Tentative Reading Assignments and Activities for the Course:**

**Jan 13 Intro to class; lecture/discussion: a paradigm of poetry {i.e. How do we define poetry, as opposed to other generic literary forms?} Reading Assignment: PHRM, chap 1; (to write as a poet) LBOF Chap 1 &2**

**Jan 20 Reading Assignment: PHRM, chap 2; (considering an audience) LBOF Chap 3 &4 Workshopping**

**Jan 27 Reading Assignment: PHRM, chap 3; (titles and initial lines) LBOF Chap 5 & 6 Workshopping**

**Feb 03 Reading Assignment: PHRM, chap 4; (considering sound and rhythm) LBOF Chap 7 & 8 Workshopping**

**Feb 10 Reading Assignment: PHRM, chap 5; (considering fixed forms) LBOF Chap 9 & 10 Workshopping**

**Feb 17 Reading Assignment: PHRM. Chap 6; (considering feelings and emotional content) LBOF Chap 11 &12 Workshopping**

**Feb 24 Reading Assignment: PHRM, Chap 7; (avoiding graphic and format distractions) LBOF Chap 13 & 14 Workshopping**

**Mar 03 Reading Assignment: PHRM, Chap 8; (selecting content from memory) LBOF Chap 15 &16 Workshopping**

**Mar 08 through Mar 12: Spring Break (no class)**

**Mar 17 Reading Assignment: PHRM, Chap 9; (working with details and imagery)  
LBOF Chap 17 & 18 Workshopping**

**Mar 24 Reading Assignment: PHRM, Chap 10; (language choices, diction, connotation, etc.)  
LBOF Chap 19 & 20 Workshopping**

**Mar 31 Reading Assignment: PHRM, Chap 11; (use of tropes) LBOF Chap 21 & 22 Workshopping**

**Apr 07 Reading Assignment: PHRM, Chap 12; (submission of a finished poem)  
LBOF Chap 23 & 24 Workshopping**

**Apr 14 Reading Assignment: TBA Workshopping**

**Apr 21 Reading Assignment: TBA Workshopping**

**Apr 28 Last Class Day before Finals: TBA Workshopping**

**May 04 Deadline for submission of all required written assignments, counted in averaging the course letter grade.**

**May 05 Formal Reading of Poems Created in Class (Substitute for final exam in class)**