

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

English 143 – Poetry Writing IV

3 hours of lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Bring your work to its fullest expression in this capstone poetry writing course, the last in the series of four classes. You'll polish a portfolio of original poems for publication or performance and explore professional opportunities in editing, submission, and presentation. Through sustained feedback and revision, you'll refine your artistic voice and prepare to share it with the world. *Completion of ENGL 142 Poetry Writing III is required prior to enrollment; courses in the sequence may be taken individually thereafter.*

Prerequisite

"C" grade or higher or "Pass" in ENGL 142 or equivalent

Entrance Skills

- 1) Create original poetry using the fundamental tools, techniques, and forms used by professional practitioners of poetry at an intermediate level.
- 2) Evaluate and critique poetry, both orally and in writing, at an intermediate level.

Course Content

- 1) Invention, composition, and revision of poetry at the advanced level
- 2) Fundamental tools, techniques, and forms of poetry, including genre, voice, structure, imagery, figurative language, sound, diction, allusion, theme
- 3) Written and oral critical commentary of original poems by peers
- 4) A diversity of poems in traditional and free verse forms by emerging, established, and/or contemporary writers, in print and online chapbooks, books, anthologies, literary magazines, and journals
- 5) In-class writing exercises
- 6) Critical essays on poetics
- 7) Strategies for performatively reading poetry
- 8) Practice in assembling a poetry chapbook
- 9) Introduction to publishing

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and analyze, both orally and in writing, the fundamental tools, techniques, and forms used by professional practitioners of poetry, including genre, imagery, metaphor, simile, alliteration, assonance, rhyme, meter, allusion, theme, traditional and contemporary forms.
- 2) Identify and employ advanced techniques of invention.
- 3) Write and revise poems utilizing fundamental forms and poetic techniques at an advanced level.
- 4) Evaluate benefits of criticism of their own work and demonstrate application of feedback in consequent revisions.
- 5) Evaluate and offer comprehensive critique of other students' poetry, both orally and in writing.
- 6) Cultivate aesthetic criteria for poetry.

- 7) Evaluate the oral readings of poets and practice performatively reading their own poems.
- 8) Apply advanced syntactic formations and mechanics used in the writing of poetry.

Method of Evaluation

Grades are based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation. Assessment frameworks may include alternative, equity-minded approaches to evaluation, such as ungrading, labor-based grading, contract-based grading, etc.

The instructor continually evaluates students' writing and provides regular and timely feedback so that students can improve their writing skills. Feedback is strengths-based and supportive. The instructor also proactively addresses concerns with attendance and assignment outcomes before the student is in danger of failing the course.

Methods of evaluation may include:

- 1) Student writing and revision of poetry.
- 2) Participation in writers' workshop, both orally and in writing.
- 3) Participation in class discussion, and writing exercises such as modeling based on published authors
- 4) Completion of poetry portfolio (including exercises, drafts and revisions) as a final project.
- 5) Performative reading of original works composed for the class, presented as part of a final examination.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

Instructors use culturally relevant and equity-minded approaches to teaching and learning. These approaches center student identities, values, experiences, and goals; use strengths-based approaches to learning; convey growth-minded faculty mindsets about student potential; offer just-in-time remediation strategies to boost language and writing skills; are attentive to student affective domains; and individualize support so that students may have equitable learning experiences.

On writing assignments, the instructor will include comments to indicate strengths and areas for improvement, enabling students to revise their work. Class time is also devoted to explaining and discussing various writing techniques, analysis and discussion of published and student writing, and peer commentary of selected assignments. A variety of teaching methods may be used:

- 1) Lecture by instructor, visiting writers, and media
- 2) Workshopping, reviewing, and reading activities in small or large groups
- 3) Discussion and writing exercises based on tools, techniques, and forms of poetry
- 4) Discussion and analysis of poetry by emerging, traditional, and/or contemporary authors
- 5) Individual conferences

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** Reading and studying poems and essays; researching material for poems, such as memories, historical events, specialized lexicons, and/or artistic aesthetic movements.
- 2) **Writing:** Composing and revising poems, reading and writing critiques of classmates' poems, craft and imitation exercises.
- 3) **Other:** Attending and/or participating in campus and community literary events and readings, submitting poems to the Cuyamaca College literary journal, *The Cuyamaca Creative*, as well as researching online and print publication opportunities.

Texts and References**1) Required (representative examples):**

- a. Burt, Steph. *The Poem Is You: 60 Contemporary American Poems and How to Read Them*. Belknap Press, 2020.
- b. Lehman, David and Terence Winch, editors. *Best American Poetry 2025*. Simon & Schuster, 2025.
- c. Meyer, Michael. *Poetry: An Introduction*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012. Classic.
- d. Salerno, Christopher and Kelsea Habecker. *How to Write Poetry: A Guided Journal*. Rockridge Press, 2020.
- e. Turco, Lewis. *The Book of Forms: A Handbook of Poetics*. 5th ed. University Press of New England, 2020.

Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Create poetry that employs the fundamental tools, techniques, and forms of the craft at an advanced level.
- 2) Use workshops and/or other review exercises to critically evaluate their own poetry manuscripts as well as the manuscripts of others.