

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

English 140 – Poetry Writing I

3 hours of lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

The first of a four-course sequence, this class is designed to familiarize students with the study, analysis, and application of the fundamental tools, techniques, and forms of poetry used by established and contemporary poets. By composing and submitting original poems, students learn to use writer's workshops to develop their skills as writers and critics. Students have opportunities for recognition and public readings of their own work. Students may enroll in this class without having to enroll in the other courses in the sequence.

Prerequisite

Placement into ENGL C1000 (formerly ENGL 120) or ESL 122

Recommended Preparation

"C" grade or higher or "Pass" in ENGL 126 or equivalent

Course Content

- 1) Invention, composition, and revision of poetry amounting to approximately 8-10 poems per semester
- 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) Distinguish, 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 basic techniques of invention.
- 3) Write and revise poems utilizing fundamental forms and poetic techniques.
- 4) Evaluate benefits of criticism of their own work and demonstrate application in consequent revisions.
- 5) Develop ability to critique 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) Practice competency in grammar, punctuation, and mechanics used in the writing of poetry.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on student achievement of the course objectives and outcomes, as determined by multiple measurements of evaluation and/or student self-assessment.

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

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture by instructor, visiting writers, and media
- 2) Writer's workshops, peer review activities, and large and small group work
- 3) Discussion and writing exercises based on tools, techniques, and forms of poetry
- 4) Discussion and reading aloud of poems by traditional and/or contemporary poets
- 5) Individual conferences

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading and studying of work by emerging, established and/or contemporary poets
- 2) Composing and revising poems
- 3) Reading and writing critiques of classmates' poems
- 4) Researching material for poems, such as memories, historical events, specialized lexicons, and/or artistic aesthetic movements
- 5) Craft and imitation exercises
- 6) Attending and/or participating in campus and community literary events and readings
- 7) 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 Elaine Equi, editors. *Best American Poetry 2023*. Simon & Schuster, 2023.
 - c. Meyer, Michael. *Poetry: An Introduction*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012.
 - 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.
- 2) Supplemental: None.

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Distinguish the fundamental tools, techniques, and forms used by professional practitioners of poetry.
- 2) Identify and employ basic techniques of invention.
- 3) Effectively critique other students' poetry.

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.
- 2) Use workshops and/or other review exercises to critically evaluate their own poetry manuscripts as well as the manuscripts of others.