

**ENG 221-02 Writing of Poetry: Introductory**  
**TR: 11:00-12:15**  
**3207 MHRA**

**Professor: Terry L. Kennedy**  
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**Course Description:** This is an introductory yet *intensive* course in poetry writing. Students will be responsible for interpretive as well as creative work with half of the semester consisting of directed assignments and presentations. The remainder of the class will be spent critiquing and discussing work submitted by the members of the workshop. **All students must have taken ENG 106: Introduction to Poetry PRIOR to enrolling. THIS COURSE IS FOR STUDENTS BEYOND THE FRESHMAN YEAR.**

**Student Learning Goals:**

To develop artistic abilities and ultimately produce a refined body of work by focusing intensively, under faculty guidance, on poetry.

To learn sophisticated models for revision; sharpen reading, editorial, and analytical skills; and cultivate the ability to articulate matters of craft and literary theory.

To become familiar with formal possibilities for writing and explore the historical development of prosody through a close study of the structure of poetry.

To develop a broader knowledge base of contemporary works and of the literary canon.

To enhance professional development with the support of a community of faculty, fellow students, and distinguished visiting writers.

**UNCG Grading System:**

A: Excellent – Indicates achievement of distinction and excellence

B: Good – Indicates general achievement superior to the acceptable standard

C: Average – Indicates acceptable standard for graduation

D: Lowest Passing Grade – Indicates work which falls below the acceptable standards

F: Failure – Indicates failure that may not be made up except by repeating the course

**Attendance: ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!** You are allowed **ONE** absence during the semester—**no exceptions**. If you miss **two days**, you will lose **2 points** from your

final total; if you miss **three days**, you will lose **4 points**; **four days, 6 points**; if you miss **five or more days**, you will automatically **fail** the course.

If you are late to class or leave early from class, it counts as ½ an absence.

Absences include illness, sporting events, car accidents, acts of nature, etc. In other words, an absence is an absence is an absence. I do not need a note from the health center or police department, as it will make absolutely no difference at all.

If you are absent on the day of a conference, a paper is due, a workshop, etc., you will not only receive **two absences**, you will also get a **zero** for the missed assignment.

**If you do not miss a class (and you are on time each day) you will receive five extra points toward your final grade.**

### **Class Work:**

In order to receive a “C” in the course, your responsibilities are to:

Read each assignment carefully and come to class prepared to discuss it. (Note: always bring your texts to class.)

Participate **ACTIVELY** in class discussions.

Turn in **4** poems

Turn in 1 critique for **each** poem up for workshop (1-2 pages or about 700 words)

Turn in **3** short essay/book responses (1-2 pages)

Help to lead **1** group presentation/class discussion (60-70 minutes)

Turn in **1** comprehensive midterm self-evaluation (2-3 pages or about 1000 words)

Turn in **1** “anthology” of 16 poems (published in literary journals in 2008 or 2009) along w/ an editor’s introduction

### **Extra Credit:**

You may receive extra credit by:

1. Taking any of your essay responses or book reviews to the University Writing Center for out-of-class critique: <http://www.uncg.edu/eng/writingcenter/>

3. Attending poetry and fiction readings and posting a 1-page review of the event. A schedule of readings is available online at <http://mfagreensboro.org/mfa-series.html>

**Assignment Miscellany:**

Assignments are to be both attached and entered as text into the appropriate Blackboard discussion forums.

Attached work, excluding original poems, should be typed, double-spaced, with a size 12 “times” font, 1 inch top & bottom margins, and 1.25 inch left & right margins.

Assignments failing to use the specified spacing, font, or margins will not be accepted.

Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Texts:**

The majority of our texts (including homework assignments and handouts) for the semester will be made available on-line via our class Blackboard site (<http://blackboard.uncg.edu>). It is **YOUR responsibility** to make sure that you have all of the required texts well in advance. Failure to bring the required texts to class will result in ½ an absence. (Note: I couldn’t get to the computer lab, my printer isn’t working, I couldn’t log onto the web, etc. are not valid excuses.)

(Note: All Blackboard texts are Adobe Acrobat documents.)

Other texts:

*Twigs & Knucklebones* by Sarah Lindsay

*Ghost Alphabet* by Al Maginnes

*Figure Studies* by Claudia Emerson

**Grading:**

This course will be graded on a modified portfolio system. That is, your grade will be determined by the whole of your performance (and improvement) in the class. Blackboard will provide a “digital portfolio” of your work over the course of the semester. At midterm, you will receive comments on your work in the class and a midterm grade. This same process will be repeated again for the second half of the semester. In addition, throughout the semester, I will post examples of “A” work turned in for our various assignments along with a “quick grades” for non-creative work.

**Notes on “Workshop Days”:** As each poem is discussed, its author will gain valuable insight into his or her own writing. Of equal importance is the time-honored truth (and the fundamental upon which the workshop format is based) that you will learn as much, if not more, by systematically critiquing the work of others. In the end, the goal of the workshop is for **all** of us to have thorough and open discussions about the poems at hand.

If at any point during the semester, I feel that your comments are becoming detrimental to the overall discussion, I will not hesitate to take away your privileges.

**Notes on Tutorials:** Tutorials are time for you to meet with me to discuss your poems one-on-one. They are, however, a two way street. You should not only bring copies of your poems, you should be prepared discuss, in detail, your thoughts and concerns.

Be prepared to take notes. I will not be returning a red-penned work for you to “connect the dots for the perfect piece.” It is up to you to mark the places where you feel your work needs revision, and then to make those revisions on your own.

I will not discuss more than three poems per tutorial. In addition, poems must be turned in to me at least **1 week prior** to your tutorial.

**Other Important Things to Remember:** This is a university level course. If you fail to meet the expectations of the class (which will undoubtedly have a negative affect on your grade) it is solely your responsibility. I will not “hound” you to live up to the course policies and requirements. **If you are having problems meeting the class or assignment requirements, it is your responsibility to make an appointment to see me.**

**THE USE OF LAPTOPS DURING CLASS IS PROHIBITED!**