TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

COURSE OUTLINE: CREW 253 POETRY WORKSHOP
Second trimester 2012
16 July to 17 November 2012

Staff

Course coordinator	James Brown
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Visiting writers will also participate in the course.

Dates

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Study week:	22 to 26 October 2012

Withdrawal Dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx

Class Times and Location

Workshops take place 3.10 - 6.00 pm on THURSDAYS in MY631. The first
workshop is on Thursday July 19 2012. The structure of workshops will vary, but
generally at least two hours of each session will comprise class work and discussion.

The remainder of the workshop time will be occupied with videos, lectures, student presentations or discussions with visiting writers.

Course prescription

A workshop course in writing poetry which also involves wide reading in the genre.

Aims and Content

By looking at both the reading and the writing of poetry, CREW 253 will enable members of the course to focus on their own writing as well as on aspects of both contemporary NZ and international poetry. They will gain an awareness of the imaginative possibilities of poetry, as well as a variety of technical approaches to the writing of it. They will develop their skills as both readers and writers of poetry.

By the end of the course, students will be used to discussing and critiquing their own work, as well as that of their peers. They will have completed a number of exercises aimed at expanding their sense of the possibilities of poetry and the forms it might take.

Teaching Learning Summary

In the first half of the trimester there will be weekly exercise work. Students will have a week to complete each exercise and will present their work for group discussion. Exercises may focus on such topics as 'found' poetry, specific poetic forms and aspects of technique, and such sub-genres as 'list' poems or odes. Discussion of contemporary poetry in general will be a part of each weekly session, and students may be asked to give short presentations on particular poems or collections. In the second half of the trimester students will present their folio work-in-progress to the group for discussion. Students will also be required to provide at least one page of written feedback on each class member's folio work-in-progress to be handed in by the following week's workshop.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students by email to all class members.

Workload

CREW 253 is formally a 20 point undergraduate course, but many students tend to treat it as a full-time undertaking. Considerable time should be spent reading poetry as well as working on original material. Full-time undergraduates should expect to spend at least 200 hours on this course (including workshop hours) reasonably evenly

distributed over the course duration. It is suggested that students, if possible, attend poetry readings while on the course, including those in the Institute's free Writers on Mondays series (12.15 pm each Monday from 16 July usually at Te Marae, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa). These will be mentioned during the course.

There may also be an opportunity for interested students to work with Wai-te-ata Press, based at Victoria University, on the production of a hand-printed anthology of poems by workshop members, and/or with Massey fourth-year 'expressive typography' students on the production of a graphic rendition of poems for an end-of-trimester exhibition.

Course Materials

There is one set text for this course: an anthology of poems, which must be purchased from vicbooks. An optional but recommended text is *Twenty Contemporary New Zealand Poets* edited by Andrew Johnston and Robyn Marsack, (VUP/Carcanet 2009). Other photocopied materials may be given to students. The set text will often be referred to, so students will need to bring it to each workshop.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9 to 27 July 2012, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

Note: Photocopying will be an additional expense. Members of the course will need to bring along thirteen copies of each weekly exercise, and thirteen copies of the work they present in their folio session, for distribution around the class. The work should be typewritten or printed from a computer.

Assessment

Assessment for the course CREW 253 will be based on a portfolio of original poetry submitted at the end of the course. TWO typewritten or printed copies of each student's folio must be submitted by **Thursday 1 November**. Two examiners (the workshop teacher and one independent assessor) will evaluate each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy of the portfolio will be returned to the student, along with reports from the two readers.

NOTE: CREW 253 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. A pass means the student will receive Grade H (ungraded pass).

The Folio
CREW 253 folios must comprise a minimum of twelve and a maximum of twenty poems produced during the course. The students may also add a short prose introduction or afterword outlining their objectives and priorities as a writer, and how they see their work developing. Poems written prior to the workshop (including those which may have been submitted in their original course application) may only be included if they have been substantially revised. Submissions should be 'shaped' into something approximating a small volume of poetry.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In CREW 253 **students must attend all workshops and complete all the prescribed exercise work and written feedback on the other students' folio work-in-progress**. If any students do not meet these requirements their folio will not be assessed and they will automatically fail the course.

Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to:
1. Write poetry of a standard comparable to poems being published in contemporary New Zealand literary magazines
2. Read contemporary poetry with a critical eye, such that they are able to identify particular features they like and dislike, and identify/produce similar features within their own poems.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is

not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source

- The work of other students or staff

- Information from the internet

- Software programs and other electronic material

- Designs and ideas

- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

Workshop Timetable

The first session will be introductory. The next six sessions will focus on workshopping the weekly exercises. There will then be four sessions focusing on the folio work-in-progress, and over this period James will also have an individual conference with each student to discuss the contents of their final portfolio.

Thursday July 19	Introduction
Thursday July 26	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 2	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 9	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 16	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 23	Exercise workshop
(two week mid-trimester break)	
Thursday September 13	Exercise workshop
Thursday September 20	Folio workshop
Thursday September 27	Folio workshop
Thursday October 4	Folio workshop
Thursday October 11	Folio workshop
Thursday October 18	Final workshop
Thursday November 1	**Folios handed in (folio party at IIML)**