



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREW 259 THE IOWA WORKSHOP (POETRY)
Trimester 3 2012

Staff

Workshop coordinator	Andrew Nance
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Office hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Administrator	Monday-Friday

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 7 January-15 February 2013
Folio due for assessment: 20 February
Examination/assessment period: 18-23 February

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawal dates and refunds may be found at
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Class times and locations

The first workshop will take place on Tuesday 8 January 2013 at 2-5pm in the workshop room (Room 102) International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Waiteata Road.

Teaching/learning summary

At workshops you will present weekly exercise work for group discussion and poems for written response and formal workshopping. Each student can expect to have three poems formally workshopped. Each student is expected to produce written commentaries on work-in-progress presented by other members of the class.

Photocopying will be an additional expense as you will need to bring **thirteen** copies of each poem you workshop.

Communication of additional information will take place in the workshops or by email.

Course prescription

A topic in creative writing

Course content

What are, as Jorie Graham describes them, ‘accurate failures’ in poetry? What is the difference between ‘vagueness or inaccuracy’ in writing and writing that engages danger ‘legitimately so that we may be genuinely saved’ (as Robert Frost describes it)? Or, as Wallace Stevens says, how is it that ‘accuracy of observation is the equivalent of accuracy of thinking’?

In this course we will consider a range of different ‘accuracies’ both by looking to others’ poetry and by writing poems which arise from their own unique and inherent accuracy. By investigating the ways in which a poem looks both to an ‘outside’ world and to a world of its own making for a place to exist, to inhabit, we will expand our notions of the capacities of a poem. This course requires hard work, ambitious thinking, and good humour.

Learning objectives

Students who pass this course will/should be able to:

1. Write poetry of a standard comparable with 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.

Workload

It is hard to assess the workload for this course. CREW 259 is formally a 20-point undergraduate course, but many students tend to treat it as a full-time undertaking. You should certainly expect to be busy. We suggest spending around 200 hours across the trimester including the workshop hours, and working towards the final folio.

Readings

The text is a course reader, in addition to the poems we produce ourselves throughout the trimester. All student notes for the third trimester will be available from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00am-6.00pm, Monday-Friday during term time (closing at 5.00pm in the holidays). Phone 463 5515.

Conferences

Towards the beginning of the workshop programme, each student will have an individual conference with the workshop convenor to discuss their writing goals. Students may arrange another conference with the convenor to discuss the contents of their final folio.

Assessment

Final folio of poems (including all previous drafts) submitted at the end of the course, along with copies of your written response to peer work.

Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by **Wednesday 20 February 2013**. Two examiners (the workshop co-ordinator and one external examiner) will read each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy of your folio will be returned to you, along with the written reports of the two readers.

Note: CREW 259 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade H (Ungraded Pass).

The Folio

In CREW 259, folios should consist of at least five revised poems. These revised poems may be revisions of in-class exercises, at-home exercises or workshopped poems. Please include all previous drafts of these poems in the folio.

Mandatory Course Requirements

In CREW 259 you must attend all workshops and complete all the prescribed exercise work and commentary writing. If you miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, you must email your response letters to both the students being workshopped and the workshop coordinator, as well as a response to the published work we have read for that class. If you are sick on one of your assigned days to turn in work and cannot attend, you must find a way to get your work to me by the beginning of class time. If you do not meet these requirements your folio will not be assessed and you will automatically fail the course.

In order for you to make this course successful, you need to be in class on time every day. You also need to be prepared to participate in all classroom activities and discussions, which means completing all reading and homework assignments before the beginning of class. This course lives and dies by the quality of the attention you give to the assigned readings and to one another's writing. I reserve the right to call on you in class at any time and for any reason, to quiz you on readings without notice, and to inspect your comments on your peers' writing. Ultimately, my goal is to help you achieve clarity, subtlety, and imagination in your writing, and to encourage insightful discussion.

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.

Class Schedule

Tue Jan 8: Introductions

Thur Jan 10: Discussion and exercises

Tue Jan 15: Workshop and discussion

Thur Jan 17: Workshop and discussion

Tue Jan 22: Workshop and discussion

Thur Jan 24: Workshop and discussion

Tue Jan 29: Workshop and discussion

Thur Jan 31: Workshop and discussion

Tue Feb 5: Workshop and discussion

Thur Feb 7: Workshop and discussion

Tue Feb 12: Workshop and discussion

Thur Feb 14: Final workshop

Wed Feb 20: Portfolios due