



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

CREW 253 Poetry Workshop
20 points

TRIMESTER 2 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Last assessment item due: 31 October 2013

Study period: 21–25 October 2013

Examination/Assessment Period: 25 October to 16 November 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

The course consists of twelve workshops. These will take place from 3.10pm–6pm on Thursdays in the IIML workshop room (Room 102, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus)

Names and contact details

Workshop convenor	James Brown
Room	404, 16 Waiteata Road on class days
Work phone	463 6854 (times to be advised) 381 7160 (Te Papa)
Email	modernletters@vuw.ac.nz catherine.james@xtra.co.nz jamesb@tepapa.govt.nz
Administrators	Katie Hardwick-Smith and Clare Moleta
Room	402, 16 Waiteata Road (9am–5pm)

Communication of additional information

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

Prescription

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

Course content

This course is based around group workshopping of students' poems, some written as responses to writing exercises and some written independently.

Through both reading and writing poetry, students will learn about the imaginative possibilities of poetry as well as a variety of poetic features and technical approaches. CREW 253 will enable students to focus on their own writing. They will also become familiar with contemporary New Zealand and international poetry. They will develop their skills as both readers and writers of poetry.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- Write poetry of a standard comparable to poems being published in contemporary New Zealand literary magazines
- 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.

Teaching Format

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 specific poetic forms and aspects of technique, and such sub-genres as 'list', 'prose' or 'found' poems. Discussion of contemporary poetry will be a part of each weekly session. In the second half of the trimester students will present their own work-in-progress folio to the class for discussion. Students will also be required to provide at least one page of written feedback on each class member's work-in-progress folio to be handed in by the following week's workshop.

Mandatory course requirements

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

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 IIML's Writers on Mondays series (12.15pm each Monday from mid-July usually at Te Marae, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa). These will be mentioned during the course.

One-on-One Meetings

In addition to the workshops, I would like to meet with each of you once during the trimester to discuss your folio content. This will be at a time convenient to both of us.

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 31 October 2013**. Two examiners (the workshop convenor and one external 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 assessors).

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

Note: CREW 253 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will receive Grade P (Ungraded Pass).

Set texts/Course materials

There is one text for this course: an anthology of poems, which must be purchased from vicbooks: www.vicbooks.co.nz. An optional but recommended text is *Twenty Contemporary New Zealand Poets* edited by Andrew Johnston and Robyn Marsack (VUP/Carcenet 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.

Note: photocopying will be an additional expense for you. You will need to bring **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.

Punctuality

The workshops begin promptly. Students need to be seated in the workshop room a couple of minutes before the start.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism

- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

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 18	Introduction
Thursday July 25	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 1	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 8	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 15	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 22	Exercise workshop
(two week mid-trimester break)	
Thursday September 12	Exercise workshop
Thursday September 19	Folio workshop
Thursday September 26	Folio workshop
Thursday October 3	Folio workshop
Thursday October 10	Folio workshop
Thursday October 17	Final workshop
Thursday October 31	Folios handed in (folio party at IIML)