



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

### CREATIVE WRITING CREW 259 THE IOWA WORKSHOP (POETRY) 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 3 2013

#### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 6 January – 23 February 2014

**Teaching dates:** 6 January – 14 February 2014

**Last assessment item due:** 21 February 2014

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 17-23 February 2014

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

#### Class times and locations

The first workshop will take place on Tuesday 7 January 2014 at 2-5pm, the second on Thursday 9 January at the same time. Thereafter, workshops will take place from 2-5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Location: Room 102, International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Waiteata Road (the workshop room).

#### Names and contact details

Workshop coordinator	Sara Martin
Room	402, 16 Waiteata Road
Work phone	(04) 463 6854
Email	<a href="mailto:saramrtn45@gmail.com">saramrtn45@gmail.com</a>
Office hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Administrator hours	Monday-Friday

#### Communication of additional information

This will take place in the workshop room or will be communicated by email.

## Prescription

A topic in creative writing. Course materials will be an additional cost.

## Course content

Poetry can save your life. Maybe it already has. This is a class about remembering that poetic expression is omnipresent. Poetry is socks, potted plants and diving boards. It is grocery lists, text messages, little sisters, umbrella rebellion and swear jars. Shower drains and pyramids of oranges. It is the open refrigerator in the night. (If only more doors made glow). From advertisements to field guides to loud sleepers on airplanes, we will work towards giving credit to our surroundings, to our everyday, and teasing the poetry out of them. Consider a recent Taco Bell ad: "Your mouth may not speak to you for a while," or the basic description of a crystal formation called a Penetrating Crystal: "Crystals may grow back to back in groups of two." Water slides, hunting guides, jewelry and bus stops, how do we use and try to understand the language that surrounds us? We will strengthen our voices and read, read, read. We will celebrate the library's magic. We will ask questions, question words we don't think about. Sandwich. Bird. Silhouette. Noon. Vampire. Sunburn.

I intend to cover a wide range of writers and poets such as but not limited to Eugenio Montale, Adrienne Rich, W.S. Merwin, Charles Olson, Jack Gilbert, Robert Bringhurst, Paul Celan, Sylvia Plath, David Foster Wallace, John Updike, Anne Carson, Lynn Hejinian, Donald Justice, John Ashbery, Alice Notley, Jack Spicer and Yehuda Amichai. We will work closely in a workshop environment to help each other see what we are doing well on the page; what we know how to do and what could be stronger.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Read and write a wide range of subjects and forms, tones and styles of poetry
2. Read more carefully and generously both the poems their peers submit for workshop and published poetry
3. Develop a wide preference for poets and styles
4. Undertake the role of poet with a greater, heightened sense of duty and artistic purpose.

## Teaching format

This is a workshop-based class. Each workshop will begin and end with a writing prompt which you will write in response to. As well your own poetry, the work of published poets will be read and discussed in workshop. One person each week will be responsible for introducing the poet being discussed and beginning the conversation. Each student will be expected to submit one poem each week. Each student will be expected to read and digest the work that we will be discussing before class.

## Mandatory course requirements

Attendance and participation are mandatory. If you miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, you must email your response letters to both the students being workshoped 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 the workshop coordinator by the beginning of class time. Missing more than one class will jeopardize the likelihood of your passing the course.

## 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. Plan on spending about 400 hours during the course, including workshop hours and final folio preparation.

## Assessment

Assessment is based on:

- Completion of one poem per week for workshopping
- Active participation in the workshop
- A portfolio (10-15 poems).

Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by (Friday 21 February 2014). Two examiners (the workshop convenor 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.

## Additional expenses

Bring thirteen copies of your work to class when you are presenting – the photocopying is an extra expense for you.

## Set texts

The text is a course reader which you can purchase from vicbooks ([www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz)).

The other set text is *My Life and My Life in the Nineties* by Lyn Hejinian, Published by Wesleyan University Press 2013 (ISBN: 9-780819) and is available at vicbooks for approximately \$23.00.

## 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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)

- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)