FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

MODERN LETTERS

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME

CREW 259: The Iowa Workshop (poetry) 20 points

TRIMESTER 3 2015

Key dates

Trimester dates: 16 November 2015 to 21 February 2016
Teaching dates post-Christmas: 5 January – 11 February 2016
Last assessment item due: 19 February 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

The first workshop will take place on Tuesday 5 January 2015 at 2-5pm, the second on Thursday 7 January at the same time. Thereafter, workshops will take place from 2-5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Location: Room 401, International Institute of Modern Letters, 16 Waiteata Road (the postgraduate library room).

Names and contact details

Workshop coordinator	Nikki Champlin
Room	402, 16 Waiteata Road
Work Phone	04.463 6854
Email	modernletters@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Administrator hours	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

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 content

Ecological poet and critic Forrest Gander asks, "How does poetry register the complex interdependency that draws us into a dialogue with the world?" This course will consider ecopoetics, nature and place in these terms: How does poetry broaden, rather than limit, the discussions we can have about the dynamic relationship between any individual and the world? Every human lives in and experiences an "environment", a term not restricted to a natural, or non-human, setting. Throughout history, and into the 21st century, poets have engaged deeply with their environments, often by creating an environment within the space of each poem in which to examine the ethical, aesthetic, and emotional aspects of living in the world. These topics are perhaps more urgent and personal today as we face a changing planetary ecosystem and a contemporary global community. Poetry can provide a forum for examination of the external environment and of one's self.

This course will ask students to engage critically and creatively with established and contemporary poetry – work by poets like Wendell Berry, Adrienne Rich, Louise Glück, Aimé Césaire, CAConrad, Derek Walcott, Arda Collins, and Alice Oswald. Our workshop will thrive on students' enthusiasm for writing, empathetic readings of each other's work, and willingness to engage the difficult questions of how and why we write, and how writing can reflect and process the relationships between people and environments.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Read and write with a critical eye for subject, form, tone and style in poetry.
2. Read carefully and generously both the poems their peers submit for workshop and the assigned reading.
3. Develop a wide preference for varied poets and a sense of their place in literary history.
4. Undertake the role of poet with a greater, heightened sense of duty and artistic purpose.

Teaching format

This is a workshop-based class. 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 reading 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, as well as writing a one-page critique letter for each student up for workshop.

Mandatory course requirements

1. Attendance in mandatory. If you miss a class due to extenuating circumstances, you must email your response letters to both the students being workshopped and the workshop convenor.
   - 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 convenor by the beginning of class time. As a last resort, email it to me at nikola.champlin@gmail.com

- Missing more than one class will jeopardise the likelihood of your passing the course.
2. Handing in your final folio on the due date.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator.

Workload

CREW 259 is a 20-point undergraduate course. Plan on spending about 200 hours across the course, which is about 30 hours weekly: 6 hours in the workshop, 12 hours writing and 12 hours reading each week.

Assessment

Assessment is based on:
- Completion of at least one poem per week for workshop.
- A presentation (that serves as an introduction for class discussion) on one of the assigned readings. Dates will be allocated to each student in the first class.
- A portfolio (10-15 poems) to be submitted on **Friday 19 February 2016.** Two typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted. 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.

Submission and return of work

Work is to be submitted to the convenor at the workshop, or to be left in the pigeonhole of the convenor (in the administration office at the IIML), or in the case of ill health, can be emailed to the convenor by the required date.

Work will be returned to the students at workshops or at the individual meetings held between the student and the convenor.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Bring thirteen copies of your work to class when you are up for workshop – 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).

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.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Workshop Timetable

Tuesday 5 January

Thursday 7 January

Tuesday 12 January

Thursday 14 January

Tuesday 19 January

Thursday 21 January

Tuesday 26 January

Thursday 28 January

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Tuesday 2 February

Thursday 4 February

Tuesday 9 February

Thursday 11 February

Friday 19 February   **Folios due**