



International Institute of Modern Letters

Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o Te Ao

POETRY WORKSHOP

CREW 253 POETRY WORKSHOP (20 points)

This workshop focuses on writing poetry, with some attention also given to reading contemporary poems. Students are set weekly poetry writing exercises that are workshopped with the group of 12 each week. Later in the course, students present a draft folio of poems for discussion and written feedback from the group, before handing in a final folio of 12 to 20 poems at the end of the course.

Course Convener

The convener of the Poetry Workshop is **James Brown**. His six poetry collections – *Go Round Power Please* (winner of the Jessie Mackay Best First Book of Poetry Award), *Lemon*, *Favourite Monsters*, *The Year of the Bicycle*, *Warm Auditorium* and *Floods Another Chamber* – are published by Victoria University Press. His poetry is widely anthologised, including in several *Best New Zealand Poems* (www.victoria.ac.nz/bestnzpoems). James is a former editor of the literary magazine *Sport*, the author behind the non-fiction booklet *Instructions for Poetry Readings* (Braunias University Press) and, in 2005, edited *The Nature of Things: Poems from the New Zealand Landscape* (Craig Potton Publishing). He has held Writer in Residence Fellowships at Canterbury University and Victoria University, and been a finalist in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards three times.

James works as a freelance writer and editor. He has a BA in English from Massey University with BA (Hons) from Victoria University.

James Writes:

“My aim is that, by the end of the course, everyone will have written poems good enough to be published in New Zealand literary magazines. I also want everyone to become better readers of poetry – to gain a greater sense of its possibilities. I hope that reading and writing poetry will be something they do throughout their lives.”

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Website www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters

How to Enrol

CREW 253 is limited to 12 students. The prerequisite is 40 points and an appropriate standard in written composition. Because of the demand for places, the quality of the poetry writing sample that accompanies applications is critical to gaining admission.

Application and enrolment: must be lodged online by going to university home page and follow the links: www.wgtn.ac.nz/
Prospective applicants are recommended to visit the How to Apply page of the website. Go to www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters for more details.

Workshops

Where: The IIML, 16 Waiteata Road, Kelburn Campus.

When: Trimester 2, Monday 2-5pm.

Assessment

Students submit a folio of 12 to 20 poems at the end of the course. Folios are examined on a pass/fail basis by the Course Convenor. Students are also required to attend all workshops and provide written feedback on draft folios presented by classmates later in the course.

Reading

The course readings will be available online via Nuku. Students are also encouraged to read *Twenty Contemporary New Zealand Poets*, edited by Andrew Johnston and Robyn Marsack (VUP/Carcenet 2009). Poems will also be distributed in class and reading suggestions made for individual students.

There are two books that will give you some idea of what to expect from our workshops as well as providing resources for developing your work. *The Exercise Book* (VUP, 2011) presents favourite writing exercises across a variety of genres, including poetry, prose and scriptwriting. *The Fuse Box* (VUP, 2017) is a collection of essays about writing strategies from some of our best writers.

Please note that our workshops are not a classroom version of a writing manual: we do not teach a specific set of predetermined skills. Our aim is to develop the imaginative capacity and individual literary skills of emerging writers in a stimulating workshop environment.