

Poetry Workshop

Fall Semester 2022

Jordan Karnes | jkarnes@oakarts.org

MT*F 1:45-3:05PM, Rm 204

(*except Tues, in 221)

Thurs: 2:10-3:15, Rm 204

Google Classroom Code: xp37xrb

Course Descriptions:

This class is intended to prepare you to confidently read, write, and discuss poetry. We will do this by starting each class off with a **poetry warm-up**, where we will read, analyze, and discuss a poem in about 10 minutes. Feeling nervous? Don't be! Poetry is a muscle like any other, and these warm-ups are intended to get you poetically strong, so to speak. I will provide the poems and questions for the first quarter, and you will be responsible for them during Q2. Don't worry, it's great.

Quarter 1 will focus on the basics, from form and language, to sound, and the line (and everyone's favorite, enjambment!). For returning students, congrats, you get to help lead on some of this. **In our second unit**, we will look to Nathaniel Dorsky's short but luminous text, *Devotional Cinema*, in order to offer another perspective on poetic form. This is a Lit Arts foundational text! Then we will workshop!

Quarter 2 we will take the foundations you learned in Q1 and get a little weird with them! Aside from you all taking the reins of our daily **poetry warm-up**, we will broaden our scope of poets, and try a lot of new things. The best kind of poetry takes risks with strangeness and trusts its reader to make those jumps, too. In this quarter, **our third unit will be on poetry of persona**—think of this as the fan fiction of poetry. We will read some of Michael Ondaatje's *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*, and then you will create persona poems of your own. **Our fourth unit** will be on **artists who incorporate poetics into their visual work**. We will look to artists like Barbara Kruger, Jenny Holzer, and more. Between each unit, we will workshop. The semester will include **three** rounds of workshops total, and conclude with you compiling the best of your work into a **final project of a chapbook and personal manifesto**.

This class is intended to stretch you as a writer and a poet, building upon what you already know, and get you working with form, sound, and language in ways you hadn't considered before. Come to class prepared to try new things, and consider new ways of looking at a poem—even if the poem is yours.

-Discussions, Reading, and Participation: Students will be expected to show up to class prepared to engage and write. Ample class time will be given for all reading and writing assignments, and students will be expected to use their time fully.

-Writing Exercises: Students are expected to keep up with weekly writing exercises. Class time will be given weekly (typically Thursday and/or Friday) for writing. If you don't use class time for writing, then it'll turn into homework.

-Workshops: We will have **three workshops** during the semester—of which you are only expected to workshop **twice**, but can participate in as many workshops as class time will allow. Priority will be given for first-time, then second-time workshopers.

In this workshop, you and your classmates will learn how to tell your stories, when to take suggestions, and when to trust your voice. We will share our pieces with each other and offer feedback from a place of mutual trust and respect. Students who take this course will commit to sharing personal pieces with a safe and **confidential community** of other student writers. All workshops will be done via our class' Shared Drive. Workshopers will be responsible for uploading a copy of their piece to the drive and adding it to their workshop folder (it will have their name and workshop date) **24 hours** before the workshop.

Student Assessment & Grading

25% Writing Exercises (complete, turned into the GC on time)

25% Workshops (having completed 2, showing up prepared for others')

25% Projects (Persona, Visual, and Final Chapbook)

15% Poetry Warm-ups (daily participation and Q2 presentations: on time, prepared to lead)

10% Attendance (1 point for being on time, 1 for being present, 1 for participation)

Student Attendance

Students are expected to be in the classroom at the start of class to be considered "Present." Students who are not present at the start of class will be marked "Tardy" or "Tardy Absent" if they arrive after 15 minutes.

Participation

Students are expected to be present throughout the duration of the class period and actively participate in each class. Teachers will keep a record of student participation and it will be factored into student grades in all classes. If there are concerns about the level of participation by a particular student, this will be appropriately communicated by the teacher to the parents if a grade is being repeatedly impacted.

Bathroom breaks & Cell phone policy

Per the OSA student handbook, only **ONE student** may be out at a time for the restroom. If it's an emergency, just come talk to me. We've had a lot of property damage and incidents last year due to students roaming the halls, so we're going to be strict on this.

As for phones, the policy is: **Phones are to be AWAY AWAY (in a backpack, etc.) during instruction.** You may use them during writing time to listen to music if your teacher allows, but that is a privilege!

-1st inappropriate use is a warning.

-2nd occurrence is immediate confiscation by the teacher and the phone is returned at the end of the period.

-If there is a 3rd occurrence, the teacher will confiscate the phone and give it to the Dean to be collected at the end of the school day. If this is a recurring problem, I will be in contact with parents.

Late work protocol

If a student is reported absent, they will have the opportunity to turn in work the next day and will be given an extra day to complete work assigned on the day of their absence.