

Course Code & No. - Section: ENGL 288/388/488  
Course Title (Credits): Poetry Workshop (3)  
Term & Year: Fall / 2015  
Instructor: Laura Wetherington  
Email: [awetherington@sierranevada.edu](mailto:awetherington@sierranevada.edu)  
Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays, Thursdays 1:00-2:15  
Location: PL 214  
Office Hours: T, Th 2:30-4:00, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor TCES

**“A book must be the ax for the frozen sea within us. This is what I believe.”**

—Franz Kafka in a letter, 1904

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

288

Prerequisite: ENGL 101. This course introduces students to basics of writing, reading, interpreting and critiquing poetry in a workshop environment. The focus is on production of new works, along with revisions. Close attention is paid to fundamentals of figurative language and verse elements.

388

Prerequisite: ENGL 387.

This course is a workshop course focusing on each student writer's individual form and style. The works of contemporary writers are studied in depth.

488

Prerequisite: ENGL 388 or consent of instructor. This course is an advanced workshop in poetry involving production and revision of original work, peer-critiques and portfolio development. Students will become familiar with markets in the genre and the submission process.

How does the poet capture and convey his or her cultural moment? What is the poet's relationship to history? What kind of reading, research, observation, or quality of living is necessary for a poet to become a master of her or his art? In this class, we'll explore poetry through an exploration of our selves: how we make sense of the world around us, what matters to us, and how we read. We'll generate a lot of writing, respond to essays about craft, and annotate contemporary poems. The class structure involves workshop in an unconventional sense; that is, we'll be doing a lot of writing and reading in class, and the workshops will showcase larger portfolios of work. The class consists of three units: new poem generation, revision and workshopping, and documentary poetics. Students will complete midterm and final portfolios of their work and will use SNC's Poetry Center as a central resource.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

A notebook with at least 200 sheets

Flash cards (optional)

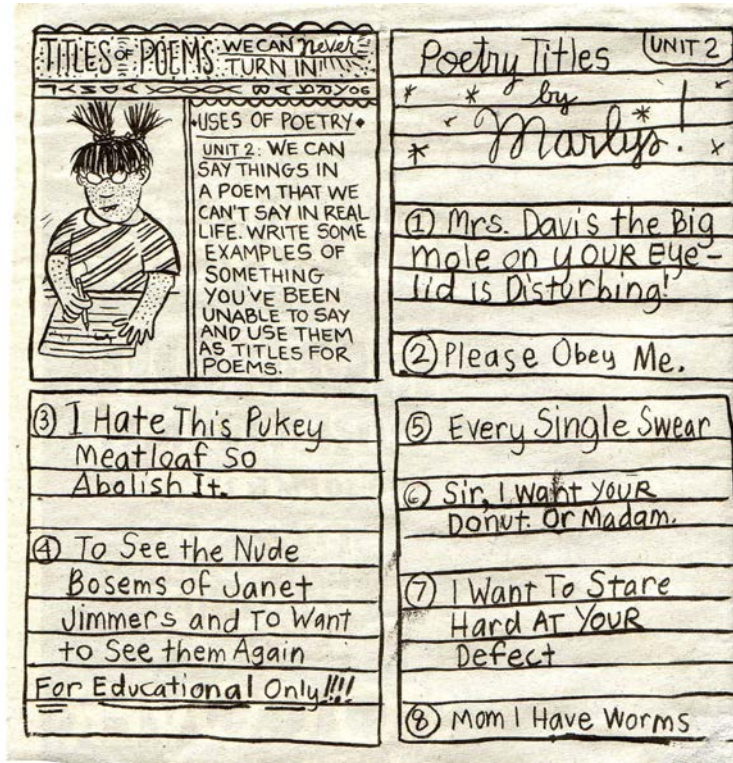
*The Sounds of Poetry: A Brief Guide*  
Robert Pinsky

Farrar, Strauss & Giroux 1999  
ISBN-13: 978-0374526177

Sierra Nevada College's Poetry Center has one of the largest collections of contemporary U.S. poetry in Northern Nevada. We'll be visiting the collection often and using those texts to supplement your reading in this course. Please see the "Supplementary Readings" handout for more information.

### STUDENT OUTCOMES

1. **Drafting Poems.** Students will demonstrate an attention to formal poetry techniques including
  - a. syllable accent and duration
  - b. syntax and line breaks
  - c. sound
  - d. free verse, blank verse, and other formal constraints
2. **Revision.** Students will be equipped to create substantive revisions on future drafts.
3. **Active Reading.** Students will be able to use a range of reading skills depending on the text (poem, craft essay, scholarly or popular article) and the task at hand (generating ideas for imitation, analysis, synthesis, understanding concepts.)
4. **Self-Reflection.** Students will develop an awareness of their own stylistic decisions and be able to articulate them as a part of the drafting and revising process.
5. **Research.** Students will further the library research skills and strategies from ENGL 102 including location of and identification of scholarly vs. popular sources.



### METHODS OF ASSESSING STUDENT OUTCOMES

Rubrics and details for each activity are available on Moodle and will be handed out in class.

| Activity           | ENGL 288 | ENGL 388 | ENGL 488 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Participation      | 300      | 300      | 300      |
| Notebook           | 300      | 300      | 300      |
| Poem Playground    | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| New Poems          | 75       | 75       | 75       |
| Midterm Portfolio  | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| Workshop Responses | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| Documentary Poem   | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| Quizzes (3)        | 75       | 75       | 75       |
| Final Portfolio    | 100      | 100      | 100      |
| Final Exam         | 50       | 50       | 50       |
| Enhancements       |          | 50       | 75       |

|                     |             |             |             |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Points</b> | <b>1300</b> | <b>1350</b> | <b>1375</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

## GRADES

The grades you will receive for your work are identical to the official SNC catalog:

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Explanation</b> | <b>Grade Point Equivalent</b> | <b>Percentage Points</b> |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A            | Excellent          | 4.0                           | 100-92                   |
| A-           | Excellent          | 3.7                           | 91-90                    |
| B+           | Above Average      | 3.3                           | 89-88                    |
| B            | Above Average      | 3.0                           | 87-82                    |
| B-           | Above Average      | 2.7                           | 81-80                    |
| C+           | Average            | 2.3                           | 79-78                    |
| C            | Average            | 2.0                           | 77-72                    |
| C-           | Average            | 1.7                           | 71-70                    |
| D+           | Below Average      | 1.3                           | 69-68                    |
| D            | Below Average      | 1.0                           | 67-62                    |
| D-           | Below Average      | 0.7                           | 61-60                    |
| F            | Failing            | 0.0                           | 59-                      |

## OFFICE HOURS

Feel free to drop by my office if you have questions or just want to chat about this class. If you are unable to come by during office hours, send an e-mail and we can set up an appointment that fits into your schedule. I will be happy to review your drafts with you in person during my office hours or by appointment. However, I will not comment on drafts by e-mail.

## LATE WORK

As a general rule, you cannot turn in late work in this course. This policy is borne out of our school's core theme of professional preparedness. The work for this class is outlined below, so please plan to complete your assignments in advance of the deadline. If you find yourself behind on an assignment, turn in what you have completed before the deadline. Because we all run into difficulties outside of our control, if you find yourself falling behind, please let me know as soon as possible. We can then plan together for how best to meet the remaining assignment deadlines for the course.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Unless specified, you will not need any electronic devices during class. Please keep all cell phones, iPods and laptops put away. Thank you for being courteous toward our learning environment. Inappropriate use of electronics during class time will negatively affect your participation grade.

“This developing awareness I will also call ‘the work.’” –Agnes Martin

**Prim Library Resources**

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

**Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism****The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

**Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code**

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

## ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu), office in Prim Library: PL-304.

## The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

## The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

## The Core Themes:

|                 |                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Liberal Arts    | Professional Preparedness |
| Entrepreneurial | Thinking Sustainability   |

**The Reading and Assignment Schedule will be handed out the first day of class.**



**Roman de la  
Rose**  
(Medieval French  
poem)



**The Tyger**  
(William Blake)