

Poetry and Movement
ENGLISH 280, 380, 480

11:30-12:45 TTh

PL 320

Fall Semester, 2014

Instructor: Gayle Brandeis

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Office hours: TBD

In his essay “Strict Wildness: The Biology of Poetry,” Peter Viereck writes “Far from being artificial or unnatural, poetry is your most physical expression, it’s basic throb your body throb.” In this class, we’ll explore poetry as physical expression, both on the page and through simple movement. Each week, we will have Free Verse Tuesday and Formal Thursday, finding balance between freedom and structure in our bodies and our poetry. No dance experience is necessary--just a willingness to move your bones around and give them voice. This class is primarily experiential, but you will turn in a portfolio of your favorite in class writings at the end of the term, and a brief essay exploring your experience in the class. ENGL 380 students will also turn in explications of three poems read in class, and ENGL 480 students will research a dance pioneer and write and present a poem about him/her in addition to the three explications.

Texts: *Rules for the Dance* by Mary Oliver, and *Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry*, edited by Billy Collins (Note that both titles reference movement. This is not a coincidence.) ;)

General guidelines:

--Come to class on time and prepared, and be sure to turn off all cell phones, iPods, etc. Laptops are okay for notes and in-class writing, but you may not go online.

--Wear clothes that allow for free and comfortable movement.

--Have fun!

Grading:

In an experiential class like this, attendance is mandatory. Two absences are acceptable (though not desirable); anything beyond that will affect your grade. Your final grade will

be based primarily upon your participation in class (willingness to explore both movement and poetry), and the strength of your final portfolio; for 380 and 480 students, your explications (and in the case of 480 students, your research poem) will also figure into your grade.

Class Schedule

Tu August 19 Introduction to our time together--intentions, expectations, etc.

Th August 21 Discuss Chapter 1 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu August 26 Discuss “The Hand” by Mary Ruefle (p. 29, Collins). Move. Write.

Th August 28 Discuss Chapter 2 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu September 2 Discuss “Song of Smoke” by Kevin Young (p. 39, Collins). Move. Write.

Th September 4 Discuss Chapter 3 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu September 9 Discuss “A Poetry Reading at West Point” by William Matthews (p. 58, Collins). Move. Write.

Th September 11 Discuss Chapter 4 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu September 16 Discuss “Wheels” by Jim Daniels (p. 66, Collins). Move. Write.

Th September 18 Discuss Chapter 5 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu September 23 Discuss “1-800-HOT-RIBS” by Catherine Bowman (p. 95, Collins). Move. Write.

Th September 25 Discuss Chapter 6 (Oliver). Move. Write. **EXPLICATION 1 due for 380 and 480 students.**

Tu September 30 Discuss “Cartoon Physics, Part 1” by Nick Flynn (p. 101, Collins). Move. Write.

Th October 2 Discuss Chapter 7 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu October 7 Discuss “She Didn’t Mean to Do It” by Daisy Fried (p. 104, Collins). Move. Write.

Th October 9 Discuss Chapter 8 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu October 14 Discuss “Ye White Antarctic Birds” by Lisa Jarnot (p. 119, Collins). Move. Write.

Th October 16 Discuss Chapter 9 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu October 21 Discuss “Killing the Animals” by Wesley McNair (p. 121, Collins). Move. Write.

Th October 23 Discuss Chapter 10 (Oliver). Move. Write. **EXPLICATION 2 due for 380 and 480 students.**

Tu October 28 Discuss “What I Would Do” by Marc Peterson (p. 175, Collins). Move. Write.

Th October 30 Discuss Chapter 11 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu November 4 Discuss “My Father’s Hats” by Mark Irwin (p. 202, Collins). Move. Write.

Th November 6 Discuss Chapter 12 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu November 11--Veteran’s Day--No School

Th November 13 Discuss Chapter 13 (Oliver). Move. Write.

Tu November 18 Discuss “Ballplayer” by Evie Shockley (p. 210, Collins.) Move. Write.

Th November 20 Discuss Chapters 14 and 15 (Oliver). Move. Write. **EXPLICATION 3 due for 380 and 480 students.**

Tu November 25--Thanksgiving Break

Th November 27--Thanksgiving Break

Tu December 2 Discuss “What He Thought” by Heather McHugh (p. 269, Collins.) Move. Write.

Th December 4 Discuss Chapters 16 and 17 (Oliver). Move. Write. **Presentation of poems by 480 students.**

Tu December 9--Final portfolio due

SCHOOL POLICIES

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.

Core Themes: Liberal Arts, Professional Preparedness, Entrepreneurial Thinking, Sustainability

Learning Differences: 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, HYPERLINK "mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu" hconover@sierranevada.edu.

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.

- 1st 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.
- 2nd 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.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

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.

