

# **ENG 470-3 Creative Writing—Poetry**

Winter 2007                      6-306

Wednesday 8:30 – 11:30

*Instructor:* Robert Budde

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## **Course Description**

Writing has the power to invent the world over again. It enchants, stimulates, motivates, informs and delights us. But the act of writing is a craft that must be developed like any other craft and, because of the power of the written word, carries a great deal of responsibility with it.

In this course we will be studying the tremendous variety of tools poets have at their disposal. At the same time, I will be providing the students with a language to describe the elements of writing. While we will be focusing on poetry, my intent will be to give each writer in the class the freedom to expand their writing "tool box" with the assumption that a more versatile writer is a better writer. Working individually, in small groups, and as a class, we will be exploring our goals and strengths as writers and, at the same time, I will be attempting to open up new possibilities for poetic expression. The class will be part lecture, part group work, part workshopping and will be flexible depending to a large extent on the composition, needs, and inclination of the group. We will be discussing the elements of poetry, practicing the conventions of the form, working on guided projects, and looking at examples of published work. Keep in mind that this is a 4<sup>th</sup> year class and I will be demanding a high level of commitment and effort.

Ultimately, I hope students will leave the class with a stronger sense of themselves as writers and, by extension, a stronger sense of themselves.

## **Required Texts**

None. I will be bringing in examples of contemporary poetry to discuss and assigning individualized reading as the course progresses.

## Assignments/Evaluation

Exercises (x4)-----	40%
Draft (12 pages)-----	20%
Finished collection/book-----	40%

Exercises: These will be exercises to strengthen poetry-writing skills. They will be often during class time and require no advance preparation.

Draft: This will be a collection of your writing outside of class as you employ the various tools we discuss in class. I will be looking for around 12 pages here.

Finished Collection/Book: This final project will extend the “draft,” include editing work, and represent a small book of poetry. This “finished” piece will be a well-conceived and carefully designed “chapbook.” I will be expecting at least 35 pages here. As an introduction to the collection I will want a short “poetics statement” of two pages.

*Deadline Policy:* A 5% per day (including weekend days) late penalty will be assessed to papers handed in after the due date without prior permission.

If there are students in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for special academic accommodations, please come and discuss this with me, or contact Disability Services located in room 7-103.

**\*\*\*\*\*Plagiarism:** This is a serious offense so if you are unsure whether or not you are plagiarizing in your writing, consult the university calendar or see me before you complete the assignment.