English 4348.001   **Dr. Timothy Richardson**
Creative Writing—Poetry   Office Hours: M 12-3pm @ 424 Carlisle Hall
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Texts: *The Making of a Poem*
        The Practice of Poetry
        Others per class discussion

Overview: This course is designed to be an intensive practice in the craft of poetry and study of the creative process through close readings of poems, essays on craft, and the workshopping of students' poems. Though the emphasis of this course is necessarily on craft, writing poems also means engaging with other (written, visual, aural, etc.) texts. That is, poetry has a relationship with the world.

Workshop & portfolio: The rules for workshop are simple. Each student will bring copies of her or his poems to distribute in the class. The class will take these copies home and read/respond to them for the next class meeting (or the one after that, or the one after that; it depends on how quickly we move). When we get to your poem, you will read the poem out loud to the class, then shut up while we discuss it. You are not allowed to talk until we are finished, and even afterward you are only allowed to ask questions for clarification, etc. Each student should have opportunities to workshop several poems by the end of the semester. A final portfolio of six poems with substantial revisions included is due at the close of the term.

Responses: Thorough, considered responses to poems to be workshopped are required *before* the poem is workshopped. That is, once you receive a poem, you should read it carefully, perhaps several times, and write detailed notes on the copy so that you will remember what you want to discuss in class. It is important to write your name at the top of the page and to save your responses. I will collect these and you will receive points based on how thorough and useful your responses have been.

Presentations: For most of the session, two students will work together for each class meeting to present general and detailed information about a given formal aspect of poetry. We will all read about that aspect in *The Making of a Poem*, but these brief, formal discussions will tell us more.

Each student will present a book of poetry by a single poet to the class. Biographical information may be important, but the presentation should focus on the craft of the poet and the organization of the book as a complete artifact. Examples of the poet's work will be helpful, as well as a discussion of themes, tropes, images, stylistic components, etc. Accompanying the presentation should be a 3-4 page essay.

Grades: Your grade is based on the following point system:

10 points   Forms Presentation
20 points   Book Presentation
40 points   4 Exercises (4x10 points)
50 points   Exam
30 points   Responses to others' work
60 points   Portfolio
30 points   Attendance (0-1 absence receives 30 points, 2 gets 20 points, 3 gets 10 points, 4 gets 0, etc.)

250 points total, so:
225-250 points total: A
200-224 points total: B
175-199 points total: C
150-174 points total: D
149 and below: F

Please Note: Some of the work that we will be reading might (one never knows) trouble or be offensive to some of you. Writers should always have their audience in mind and treat that audience with resepect. When a poet doesn't, it is up to the workshop to help that writer understand where the work isn't working. But it is impossible for this course to work under any kind of censorship. The nature of the course—workshopping students' work, encountering work by publishing poets—makes daily encounters unpredictable. Students must feel free to try out new ideas and voices in a receptive environment, even if those ideas and voices are of a nature that one or more of you might find troubling or offensive to your political, religious, moral views or tastes. If you think that you will find them offensive, then you should not enroll in the course or, if enrolled, should withdraw from it. If you want or need to stay in the course, then you have made a choice. Please understand that everyone else, at any time, should feel free to discuss poems and ideas and in no way can your sensitivity to certain topics or issues or language be used as a means of avoiding the required work for this course.

Schedule:

Aug 29	Course introduction
Sept 5	NO CLASS
Sept 12	Discuss Midrash introduction Discuss "Tradition and the Individual Talent" Exercise #1 (Write a 10+ line, *rigidly decasyllabic* "poem") Distribute poems
Sept 19	Discuss forms and the formall attributes of poetry "The Villanelle" Workshop
Sept 26	"The Sestina" Workshop
Oct 3	"The Pantoum" Exercise #2 (*Practice* pg 46) Workshop
Oct 10	"The Sonnet" Workshop
Oct 17	EXAM (forms and the formal attributes of poetry) Workshop
Oct 24	"The Ballad" "Blank Verse" Exercise #3 Workshop
Oct 31	"The Heroic Couplet" Workshop
Nov 7	"The Stanza" Workshop
Nov 14	"The Elegy" Presentations Exercise #4 Workshop
Nov 21	"The Pastoral" Presentations Workshop
Nov 28	""The Ode" Presentations Workshop
Dec 5	Presentations Portfolio Due

Outcomes: To recognize the forms of poetry and be able to anayze a poem's effectiveness in its own terms and in how it relates to the tradition; to produce poems that participate in the tradition while maintaining some unique quality; to practice both simple and wholesale revision.

Policies: At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients. *As the instructor of this section, I require attendance in order to encourage participation. A significant percentage of this course consist of workshopping each other's poems; regular class attendance is necessary.*

I will only read/respond to student e-mail during regular office hours.

I will not accept late papers or assignments unless you have made arrangements with me in advance. In case of illness or emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

All essays must be typed and double-spaced. Use basic fonts, no larger than 12 pt. Margins should be one inch all around. Titles are mandatory and fun. Be original and inventive. Do not use plastic binders or notebooks to enclose your essays. Staples are best. No late papers will be accepted. Always, always keep an extra hard copy of your work.

Plagiarism may result in immediate failure of the course.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:
The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit* www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.
I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at https://www.uta.edu/conduct/.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is

required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: [Required for face-to-face courses; should be omitted for online courses] Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [insert a description of the nearest exit/emergency exit]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): [Optional.] Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In Quick Hits sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at http://uta.mywconline.com. Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information.