

ENGLISH 204B – Introduction to Creative Writing: Poetry
3 CREDITS | CRN: 60527

INSTRUCTOR: Susan St John
CLASS WEBSITE: stjohnpoetry.weebly.com
OFFICE: Hale Manaleo 109
DROP-IN HOURS: MTWR| 2:30-3:30 PM
R | Noon-1p.m.

I look forward to the individual meetings we will have this semester. See me at the above times and location for a drop-in appointment, or call/email/speak to me to plan a meeting that fits your schedule.

TELEPHONE: 808-236-9226
EMAIL: susankcl@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2015

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment—inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

English 204B Introduction to Creative Writing (Poetry) introduces students to the basic practices and principles involved in the writing and publication of poems.

Prerequisite: "C" or better in ENG 100 or consent of instructor.

Recommended course preparation: Students should possess a strong foundational knowledge of grammar, word usage, and punctuation. Additionally, students must be able to accept constructive criticism from peers and the instructor.

This course satisfies the following graduation requirement: DA.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- *The Poetry Home Repair Manual: Practical Advice for Beginning Poets*, Ted Kooser
- Handouts and Internet resources

COURSE CONTENT AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course will introduce sound devices, literal and figurative language, line and stanza, rhythm and meter, traditional forms with variations, speech acts, textual analysis and interpretation, and workshop protocol.

The student learning outcomes for the course are to:

1. Create original poems that reflect a skillful use of literary devices, forms, and conventions.
2. Analyze poems written by peers and published authors.
3. Propose and employ feedback in the writing workshop model.
4. Evaluate and submit poems for publication.

COURSE TASKS AND GRADING

Activity	Weight
<p>Poetry exercises and reflections, Final Portfolio</p> <p>Students will complete ten poetry exercises. A 1-2 page reflection will accompany each exercise. This reflection explains particular concepts, describes process, and makes a connection to a poem written by a peer or published poet, or a connection to Kooser’s advice. Students will present these poems to the class for workshop and eventually revise for the final portfolio.</p>	45%
<p>Workshop letters</p> <p>Students will write workshop letters, which may include description and analysis of their peers’ poems, as well as a connection to Kooser’s advice, or connections to poems written by other published poets. These letters will be turned in first to Susan for credit, and then passed on to peers.</p>	10%
<p>Informal writing</p> <p>Students will write by hand in a Writer’s Notebook, which is a place to take notes in and out of class, , record dreams and conversations, copy poems written by others, write lists, memories, observations, descriptions of intriguing scenes, “supposings”, letters mailed or unmailed, record new words or words that you want to use in your poems, and so on.</p> <p>Some entries will be assigned and others will be free. I encourage students to write at least 2+ pages per week. At the end of the semester, students will choose and revise a few of the entries to turn in, write a short reflection on the process of keeping a notebook, and present their notebooks in a general way to the class.</p>	15%
<p>Class Offering and Daily Presence and Discussion Posts</p> <p>Students earn points for participating as giver and receiver of a “class offering” that will take place during the first ten minutes of every class. Each week I’ll also assign a Laulima Discussion Post, which should be completed before class. These posts serve as a basis for our daily discussion.</p> <p>Participation in daily activities also counts in this category. These</p>	20%

points cannot be made up if students are absent—for any reason at all. Students will not be eligible for these points if they are tardy or leave early.	
<p>Oral/Visual Presentation of Poems</p> <p>Students will present poems written by established authors. One of these poems must be selected from a provided list. Students will also recite one of their own original poems. The readings should convey the meaning of the poems, and pay attention to pronunciation, stresses, pauses and pace. Give a short introduction to your reading that tells us what to listen for in your reading. You are welcome to enhance your reading with music and visuals (slides).</p>	10%

A few important notes on grading and course tasks...

- Twenty pages of revised work must be completed to be eligible for a passing grade.
- Instructor conferences to review writing are required for this course.
- All assignments will be made public to the class in workshops and Laulima.
- Late work turned in within one week will earn reduced points.
- In the event of a documented emergency or death in the immediate family, please see me to make a reasonable plan.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This is not a lecture course. Much of the course will be devoted to group activities and class discussions. Since we grow in our understanding of language and poetry as we struggle to articulate our thoughts, please do your best to participate enthusiastically and respectfully. Pay attention to the “dance” of healthy interaction. If you are a person who speaks readily, holding back for a moment may allow those who are more hesitant a chance to speak. If you are a person who would rather not speak, please you challenge yourself to honor us with your ideas. There is no “right” answer or “dumb” question; I am interested in an honest and open discussion that allows all of us to grow in our understanding of poetry and the human condition as expressed through poems.

COURSE SUPPLIES

Bring to every class:

1. Textbook
2. Marble Composition Book, College-Ruled, for your Writer’s Notebook
3. 3-Ringed binder with dividers or tabs
4. Folder paper

5. Pens—black or blue, and 1 red
6. Highlighter
7. Calendar or Assignment book

STUDENT CONDUCT AND PROFESSIONALISM

Familiarize yourself with the Student Regulations section of the General Catalogue, particularly the Student Conduct Code and Disruptive Behavior Policy. All cell phones should be off and completely out of sight for the entire class period.

Plagiarism, the use of other people’s words and ideas, in part or whole, without proper citation is a serious offense, and cases will be referred to the Vice Chancellor of Student Services. Students who engage in acts of academic dishonesty face serious consequences—including failure. *At certain checkpoints I’ll ask that you submit your work to turnitin.com, which is a plagiarism checking service.*

How to submit to turnitin.com. go to turnitin.com and create an account. Once you create an account, you enter the class I.D. and the enrollment code. Then select the assignment you are turning in, and upload your file.

Class Title	Enrollment Password	Class I.D.
Eng204B: Poetry	PoetryFall15	10322698

Student Services counselors are available to assist students with personal and academic problems. Please call 235-7413 to make an appointment with a counselor. If you are a first generation college student, receive Pell grants, or have a documented disability, I encourage you to visit TRiO Student Support Services in Alaka’i 129 to sign up for additional services.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, consider contacting the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.