

Course text: *Thirteen Ways of Looking for a Poem: A Guide to Writing Poetry*, Wendy Bishop, ed. (Longman, 2000)

Course objectives:

This course offers you the opportunity to read, think about, and write poetry. In addition to sharpening your own writing tools this semester, you will participate in analyzing and critiquing poems by recognized authors and by your peers in the class. Throughout the course you will develop a “writer’s sensibility” and accomplish the following:

- ~learn the craft of poetry by becoming familiar with such poetic devices as voice, rhyme, sensory images, figurative speech, line breaks
- ~practice a variety of poetic forms (in addition to free verse) such as the sonnet, sestina, and rhymed couplets
- ~read and respond to a wide range of poetry by contemporary authors
- ~develop your own writing creatively and critically
- ~become more attuned to the nuances of vocabulary and language
- ~become a more sophisticated reader of poetry (and other literary genres as well)

Course Schedule (through fall break):

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| Week 1 (Aug. 27) | Introduction to course & concrete detail
Read Chapter 1: <i>About Writing and Reading Poetry</i> |
| Week 2 (Sep. 1) | Poem # 1 due: Place poem with concrete detail |
| Week 3 (Sep. 10) | Poem #2 due: Childhood/memory poem
Read Chapter 3: <i>Couplets and the Sounds of Full, Slant, and No Rhyme</i> |

Week 4 (Sep. 15)

Poem #3 due: Rhymed couplets

Week 5 (Sep. 22)

Poem #4 due: Dramatic monologue
Read Chapter 4: *Elegies and Aubades*

Week 5 (Sep. 29)

Poem #5 due: Elegy
Read Chapter 10: *Quatrains*

Week 6 (Oct. 6)

Poem #6 due: Rhymed quatrains (envelope quatrains)
Read Chapter 11: *Sestinas*
Mid-term portfolio due, in class, Oct. 9

Week 7 (Oct. 13)

Fall Break—no class 10/14
Conferences 10/16

Week 8 (Oct. 20)

Poem #7 due: Sestina