



CRW 3372

3-4:20 PM, MW | UGLC 340
SPRING 2020 | CRN 23081

instructor. Alessandra Narváez Varela
email. anarvaez2@utep.edu
office. EDUC 910
office hours. T 12-3 pm & by appointment

Catalog Entry

Reading and Writing Poetry (3-0) Intensive study, reading and practice in the various forms and approaches within poetry writing, including workshop discussion of individual student poems. Prerequisites: CRW 3372 with a grade of “C” or better and departmental approval.

Course Description

“Is it romantic to imagine poetry accomplishing anything in a world of happenings?” Don Share, poet and editor of *Poetry Magazine*, asks in relation to W.H. Auden’s oft-quoted, yet misunderstood line: “poetry makes nothing happen.” The question of poetry’s “use” in a society plagued by inequality, indifference and inaction has long been discussed by poets, readers and scholars alike. In this course, while discussing elements of craft such as imagery, prosody and figurative language, we will also examine, reap, and experiment with poetry’s power as an instrument for social justice. For this purpose, we will read poetry that’s undeniably committed to action, and that can model your take on poetry that serves as a vehicle for social justice. The course will feature lecture, class discussions, and workshop components.

Course Outcomes

Throughout this course, students will

- Recognize and apply literary devices used in poetry.
- Read and discuss poetry in relation to the thematic frame of the course.
- Provide and receive professional criticism of peers’ poetry submissions.
- Discuss revision and the structural elements of a collection of poems.
- Produce a final portfolio with a critical preface and four poems.

This course is also designed to promote your overall success, inside and outside the classroom. The coursework will help you improve in key areas such as communication, confidence, and critical thinking.



Classroom Policies

Late Work: You are expected to respect deadlines. However, if you communicate with me about the circumstances surrounding your tardiness, please consider the following. You will have an extension of 1 academic week to turn in assignments if you communicate with me before about absences. If there's no prior communication, but there were dire circumstances involved that can be documented afterwards, you will be allowed to turn in the assignment the next class period. For small group and class workshop feedback, I can only provide with such extensions once, but if there's no communication prior or after, zero points will be assigned automatically.

Attendance: You are expected to keep track of your absences. You can miss four classes, which is two weeks' worth of class; every additional absence will lower your final grade by 10% or one letter grade. If you miss more than 5 classes without communicating with the instructor, the student might be dropped from the course. Please notify me as soon as possible if you encounter extraordinary circumstances that affect your ability to attend class.

Course drop deadline is April 3rd, 2020.

Format: All assignments will be turned in through Blackboard in 12-point Times New Roman or a font of similar size, and with an MLA-style ID on the upper left corner. You may use single or double space for your poems. When naming files, please follow this to facilitate downloading and grading: first name_CRW 3372. For example: Alessandra_CRW3372.

Quality: While this is a writing class where creative pieces are produced, and credit is given for turning these and other assignments on time, (unjustified) poor grammar, evident lack of effort, and/or failure to follow guidelines will affect your grade.

Netiquette: You should consider that all writing you do for this course (Blackboard discussion groups, assignments, and even emails) is professional. Please include a subject when writing an email to me, and follow this template:

*Dear Ms. [not Mrs.] Narváez Varela OR Dear Alessandra,
Write the content of your email here. Make sure you proofread for proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Try to use formal, professional language.
Sincerely,
Your name*

Workshop Etiquette: You should take the literary critic role seriously, as your classmates' poems are highly personal pieces that deserve your careful reading, time and respect. If these are observed, then the critique of your work should never be taken personally. Also, I will defend your writing ferociously from disrespectful, pointless critique (which is a rare occurrence) so please enjoy writing creatively, sharing your work, and receiving feedback.

Tech Etiquette: As a courtesy to your classmates and instructor, please refrain from using cell phones, tablets, laptops, etc. for recreational purposes while class is ongoing. CRW 3362 is taught in small classrooms, not in large auditoriums where instructors either ignore, accept or expect non-academic use of technology. While I allow readings to be downloaded, and accessed electronically, ongoing recreational use of electronics during class will result in requiring all students print the weekly poems and short stories, as well as imposing a tech-free zone rule.

Resolving Issues: It is your responsibility to manage your workload, complete all assignments and stay on top of your grades. It is also your responsibility to arrange an office meeting with me to discuss questions/concerns. The earlier you contact me with questions/concerns, the better we can deal with them.

University Policies and Services

University Writing Center (UWC): I encourage you to make use of the UWC during the planning, drafting, and/or revising phases of writing any assignment in this class. The trained writing consultants can help give you a fresh perspective on ideas and help you with things like correctness, formatting, etc. The UWC is located on the main floor of the library, to the right of the elevators and computer lab.

Academic Integrity: An act of plagiarism (or other form of academic dishonesty) will result in an ‘F’ for the course, and may include other University disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion. You should become familiar with the ethical guidelines for conduct spelled out in the [Student Affairs](#) section of the [Handbook for Operating Procedures](#). Additionally, please be aware that you may not submit work for this class that was produced for another class. You must produce your own original work in this class and appropriately identify and portion of your work which is collaborative with others, borrowed from others, or which is your own work from other contexts. Always cite your information. If you have doubts as to whether or not you are using your own or others’ work legally and ethically, ask me or stop by the UTEP Writing Center. Follow this primary principle: Be upfront and honest.

ADA: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact The Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) at (915)747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu. The CASS office is located in Room 106, Union East. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor with any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Military Student Success Center: If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active), consider visiting the Military Success Center at Library Room 205 or online at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc/>. Please inform me if you need special accommodations. If you make me aware of a complication, I will work to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you.

Withdrawals: Each semester has a drop date beyond which an instructor can no longer drop a student with a “W.” Students who fail to attend or fulfill assignments after the drop date must necessarily receive an “F.” However, in the event of exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the instructor of the course and the academic dean, a grade of “W” may be obtained. The student is responsible for supplying written documentation to support the request for a “W.” Acceptable reasons for a “W” include: personal or family emergencies, death of a family member, military leave, or an exceptional work schedule that prevents you from completing the course.

Calendar

This calendar is subject to change. Attend class and check Blackboard for changes of readings or due dates.
Reading key: **BB**=Blackboard; **ICA**=In-Class Assignment

Week 1	
January 22 nd	Introduction and Syllabus Reconnaissance.
Friday January 24 th @ 5pm	ICA 1 *Always go to BB>Week #>ICAs for prompt. *Except for ICA 1, which you will start on your own time, ICAs will be started towards the end of class on Wednesdays, and submitted on Fridays by 5pm
Week 2	
Reminder	Make 1 comment/week to get 15 participation points

Week 9	
Due by end of class	BB Feedback
March 23 rd	Small Group Workshop 1
March 25 th	Small Group Workshop 2
Week 10	
Ask Yourself	What goes into meaningfully revising a poem?
March 30 th	"Scissors & Gluesticks: Re-Visioning the Poem" by Laurie Kutchins "Two Wrongs Make a Right: Revision through Recycling" by Scott Wiggerman
April 1 st	In-class revision
April 3 rd	Course Drop Deadline
Due by Friday 4/5 @ 5pm	ICA 10= Second revised draft of two poems Upload to BB>Class Workshop Discussion Board>assigned groups
Week 11	
Prepare Yourself!	Class Workshops
Due by before class	BB Feedback Upload to BB>Class Poetry Workshop Discussion Board>assigned groups
April 6 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
April 8 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
Week 12	
April 13 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
April 15 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
Week 13	
April 20 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
April 22 nd	2 students: 2 poems/student
Week 14	
April 27 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
April 29 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
Week 15:	
May 4 th	2 students: 2 poems/student
May 6 th	Class Debrief and/or Class Review Activity ICA 11: Poetry Factory Dates/Times TBD
First Day Extra Credit	Congratulations! You made it this far 😊 The year in which Juan Felipe Herrera was named U.S. Poet Laureate was 2015.
Week 16:	
Final Portfolio due Wednesday, May 13 th at 11:59 PM	

