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Fall 2015

## ENGL 6193

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*University of New Orleans*

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“With idea, sound, gesture, the duende delights in struggling  
freely with the creator on the edge of the pit.”

– Federico García Lorca

### **Required Texts and Materials:**

Debut volume of poetry for oral report/imitation (selected from my list)

Large 3-ring binder, loose leaf, pen

Any dictionary

### **Course Description:**

Each class member will design and create a portfolio of poems: long poems, serial pieces, or interconnected short lyrics. Weekly workshops will respond to drafts and revisions of original student writing, individual pieces as well as longer examples. This course will consider what it means to wholly inhabit a piece of writing – for a week, a semester, years even. How do we fulfill the demands of writing-- deliberateness, procedure, habitual practice, revision, and failure – while preserving a sense of play, curiosity, joy, and duende vital to the creative process? Requirements include 6 weekly poems, a five-page sampler of original poetry, 10 pages of revisions, forum responses to peer writing, forum responses to articles and essays, and a YouTube presentation.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Write and critique original poems presented as brief, individual pieces and as longer sequences
- Respond critically and creatively to contemporary poems and writing on poetry
- Acquire the skills necessary to generate and revise poems on your own
- Assess personal development as a creative writer and critical thinker

### **Course Requirements:**

*Poems.* For the first half of the semester, you will turn in single poems. All class members will post Poem 1 for workshop critique. For the remainder of the semester, students will be workshopped on a rotating schedule. However, all students are required to turn in five single poems and one sampler; on weeks that you are not "up" for workshop, you will still turn in a poem for my critique. For the second half of the semester, we'll workshop samplers (5-7 pp.) of student poetry. If you are working on a longish poem, a serial piece, a verse play, novel-in-verse, or an epic, please turn the longer work in for your sampler. Alternately, one might present a group of unrelated lyric poems.

*Workshop Notes.* The poet will post her poem or sampler as a new thread in the weekly workshop forum. Each member of the class must then respond to the poem. Like most workshop classes, we will strive to supply specific, descriptive feedback rather than more general, evaluative statements. Please respond to all peer poems (save your own)

with 50 words of questions, description, and critique. For the sampler workshops, provide five instances of marginalia per page (just note specific lines) and a 250-word letter to the student poet. Please read all posts. Unless you are the "first responder," your post should take into consideration comments made by classmates. Please post follow-up remarks for at least two poems.

Assigned Reading. Pages from our shared texts should be read by Monday of the week that they are due.

Instructor Talks. Listen to my brief talks and read accompanying poems at the beginning of each week (by Tuesday at the latest).

Response Forums. The Q&A and response forums invite group discussion. Assignments are designed to encourage creative writers to respond to the readings in a variety of ways – through analysis, personal reflection, and creative writing. Please provide page numbers when you quote or paraphrase the reading. **Unless otherwise indicated, do not incorporate outside sources.**

Oral Book Report and Imitation. You will select a debut collection from the posted assignment sheet. On your scheduled date, you will present this book to the class as outlined on the assignment sheet. In addition, you will write an imitation of your poet's style. An abbreviated workshop of the imitation will follow your presentation. Should you not post your oral report, you will receive a zero on this assignment. Late posts will be docked one letter for every hour that they are past the deadline. Absences will be excused under the following conditions: official closure of the University and hospitalization of the student (documentation required).

Final Portfolio and Self Reflection. Your final portfolio will contain ten pages of poetry that you have written for this class and revised extensively in response to workshop or instructor notes. For the self-reflection paper, please consider your growth as a poet, student, and reader: provide evidence from portfolio drafts and revisions as well as notes on peer poems. (800-1000 words) Assignment sheet to follow.

Conferences. I require that we meet or talk one-on-one at least once this semester. You will regularly receive individual feedback on your poems, workshop participation, and forum responses. Please post questions about coursework to the "Questions for Carolyn" forum at the top of our Moodle page. As in a brick and mortar class, other students likely have the same question and can benefit from the public answer. If you have a private matter, shoot me an email.

### **Course Policies:**

Attendance. Although our course takes place in cyber rather than actual space, your classmates and I need your consistent presence in our virtual classroom. I regularly check class logs to assess student attendance: participation in forums, reading required materials and posts, etc. **Please check our Moodle page every weekday** for updates to the schedule, as well as "Announcements" and "Questions for Carolyn." Students are responsible for viewing all links, videos, and lectures that I may add to the schedule or post to a forum. Needless to say, you are required to review all forum posts and responses, including those addressed to other students. Also, check your UNO email daily in case I need to contact you. Please respond promptly to emails, and I will do the same. However, I go "off the grid" on the weekends.

Format. All poems should include your name and the poem number in the forum name or an upper corner (if you are using a Word document); poems should be free of errors and typos. Please think of the forum posts as short papers, i.e. use correct formatting, unified paragraphs, and complete sentences. Revise for grammar and style before you

post (no need to sound antique but your tone should be appropriate for academic discourse). Unless otherwise indicated, do not incorporate outside sources, whether through direct quote or paraphrase, in your papers/responses. I want to hear *your* thoughts and critical observations, not those of the Internet. However, please provide page numbers for quotes or paraphrases of our shared texts.

Deadlines. Please meet the deadlines specified on our schedule, the date and time. Note that times listed are Central Standard. Late assignments will be lowered by one letter grade: this policy applies to all assignments (attendance, weekly postings, responses, papers, poems).

My Feedback. I consider the workshop to be a place for poets to take risks and generate new writing; therefore, my notes rarely suggest “line edits” to early drafts but frequently offer questions, description, and reading suggestions that I hope will prove helpful in the revision process.

Grades. My evaluation of your creative writing will consider application of writerly strategies, **evidence of substantial revision**, and originality in thought and technique. In my evaluation of your responses, I will look for thoughtful answers to the prompt, evidence from the shared texts, and 6000-level prose style. Feel free to speak with me at any time about your grade and/or progress in this course.

Point Values.

Participation (preparation, attendance, prompt posts, workshop feedback)	25%
Presentation	10%
Responses	20%
Weekly Poems/Sampler, Portfolio Revisions	40%

Academic integrity. Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

To ensure academic integrity, all students enrolled in distance learning courses at the University of New Orleans may be required to participate in additional student identification procedures. At the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course, these measures may include on-campus proctored examinations, off-site or online proctored examinations, or other reasonable measures to ensure student identity.

Authentication measures for this course are identified below and any fees associated are the responsibility of the student.

We will use the Proctor U service for a class reading.

The University of New Orleans partners with Proctor U, a live, online proctoring service that allows students to complete exams from any location using a computer, webcam, and reliable internet connection.

Accommodations. It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

## **Schedule**

Assignments may change. Homework is underlined and listed by the day it is due.

### **Weeks 1 and 2**

**[W] August 19 - [F] August 28**

Introductions Forum (due Wednesday, August 20, at 4 p.m. CST)

Poem 1 due

Poem 1 + Question Workshop (initial post due Th, 8/20, at noon; workshop responses due Th, 8/27, at noon)

Select top two debut collections

### **Week 3**

**[M] August 31 - [F] September 4**

Read Lorca essay, "Theory and Play of the Duende"

Q/A Forum (question post due M, 8/31, at noon; student response due Th, 9/3, at noon)

Response Forum (initial post due M, 8/31, at noon; peer response due Th, 9/3, at noon)

Sign up for conferences

Sign up for samplers and presentations

### **Week 4**

**[M] September 8 - [F] September 12**

Poem 2 (due M, 9/8, at 8 a.m.)

Poem 2 + Sound Workshop Forum (initial post due T, 9/8, at 8 a.m.; workshop responses due Th, 9/10, at noon)

Required Conferences

### **Week 5**

**[M] September 14 - [F] September 18**

Read Roethke and Alexander essays

Q/A Forum (question post due M, 9/14, at noon; student response due Th, 9/17, at noon)

Response Forum (initial post due M, 9/14, at noon; response due Th, 9/17, at noon)

### **Week 6**

**[M] September 21 - [F] September 25**

Poem 3 (due M, 9/21, at noon)

Poem 3 + Sound Workshop Forum (initial post due M, 9/21, at noon; workshop responses due Th, 9/24, at noon)

### **Week 7**

**[M] September 28 - [F] October 2**

Read Boruch's "Poetry's Over and Over" and repetition/refrain poems

Response Forum (due T, 9/29, at noon)

Poem 4 (due M, 9/28 at noon)

Poem 4 Workshop Forum (initial post due M, 9/28, at noon; workshop responses due Th, 10/1, at 4 p.m.)

### **Week 8**

**[M] October 5 - [F] October 9**

Handout and Ekphrastic Poem 5 (due M, 10/5, at noon)  
Workshop Forum (initial post due M, 10/5, at noon; workshop responses due Th, 10/8,  
at 4 p.m.)  
Sampler 1

**Week 9 + Midsemester Break**

**[M] October 12 - [W] October 14**

Samplers 2 and 3

Presentation 1

**Week 10**

**[M] October 19 - [F] October 23**

Presentation 2

Samplers 4 and 5

**Week 11**

**[M] October 26 - [F] October 30**

Samplers 6 and 7

Presentation 3

**Week 12**

**[M] November 2 - [F] November 6**

Samplers 8 and 9

Presentation 4

**Week 13**

**[M] November 9 - [F] November 13**

Sampler 10

Presentation 5

**Week 14**

**[M] November 16 - [F] November 20**

Presentations 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Optional Conferences

**Week 15 + Thanksgiving Break**

**[M] November 23 - [W] November 25**

Continue Presentations

**Week 16**

**[M] November 30 - [F] December 4**

Revisions workshop forum (TBA)

**EXAM WEEK**

Final Portfolio and Self Reflection (due W, 12/9, at 5 p.m.) NAME & POEM NUMBER  
ON EVERY POEM