NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

WR 241
INTRODUCTION TO POETRY WRITING

COURSE CREDIT:
(3) This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
WR 121 [C-] or Placement Test WWRI(1)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
“The art of poetry is ultimately an art of attention—Michael Blumenthal.” Throughout this course, we will consider the tools necessary to approach poetry more attentively as both readers and writers. This course will provide a firm grounding in the rudiments of poetic craft such as word choice, line breaks, imagery, figurative language, and structure as well as an introduction to different forms available to poets. We will consistently work through writing exercises and read the work of various poets in order to aid us in the generation of our own poems. I hope that you will become genuinely attached to the works/words of a few, if not all, of the poets we engage. I’d like to think you might leave this course with a deeper appreciation of language and dare I say be excited by the prospect of writing.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
STEPHANIE ROUSH
E-MAIL: Stephanie.Roush@oregonstate.edu

For more information, contact: SCHOOL OF WRITING, LITERATURE AND FILM, MORE 238, 541-737-3244. Course Information: http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/wlf/students/courses

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the ECampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:
REQUIRED MATERIALS: ALL READING WILL BE POSTED AS PDFS, POWERPOINTS, OR LINKS AND ORGANIZED BY WEEK ON CANVAS.

NOTE: For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Build a poetic vocabulary and utilize elements of poetry to display writing growth
- Pursue various writing techniques to organize, revise, and create well-developed poems
- Learn to critique poetry in an in-depth and constructive way
- Become familiar with traditional and contemporary multicultural poetry with a sensitivity to its layers of meaning, idea, and emotion

COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:
Course Projects:
Through the study of poetry, poets (including your classmates), revision processes, poetic techniques/devices, and exercises you will develop a portfolio of five poems.

Four of the major poem projects have a specific focus:

- Emblem Poem (describing and reflecting on an object)
- Memory Poem (with sensory detail)
- Ekphrastic (with sound play)
- Persona Poem (writing another’s voice)

The fifth poem is an open option. I will give some ideas later in the course, but I expect the fifth poem to develop from a class activity (exercise, discussion, reading, etc.) and be something that you wanted to expand and share as a poem. Obviously, those terms can lead to loose interpretations, but I expect to see drafts for this process.

In addition, the workshop group may complete a linked or class poem (time permitting).

Your final portfolio will be due at the end of the term during finals week. Each poem in the portfolio should have drafts (number will depend on conferences, workshops, etc.) This means you should make sure to save multiple versions of your poem as you revise. More detail about the portfolio will follow.
Other required class activities:
- you will schedule and complete one virtual conference with me for the term
- write critiques of your classmates’ poetry (workshop)
- you will create a poetry presentation (virtual)
- you will turn in various in and out of class poetry exercises (journal/typed exercises)
- you will complete a mid-term evaluation that tests your poetic knowledge of key terms

Class Participation:
Reading assignments/discussion: Read, annotate, and reflect on what you’ve read, and always be prepared to post your thoughts, reactions, etc. Discussion board forums, online activities, quizzes, and journal reflections will be used to compensate for lack of face to face lecture and discussion.

Workshopping: You will be participating in a supportive workshop in the second half of the term. Poets benefit from sharing their work. Because writing is a personal endeavor, students make themselves vulnerable by presenting their work and voicing their ideas. Nervousness comes with the territory. As we work together in this course, let us be considerate as well as honest. Welcome all!

To compensate for the lack of face to face contact, poets will be required not only to post their poem to the Canvas Discussion Forum by attachment, but to include a recording of themselves reading the poem (instructions for doing so will be placed in the Week 1 Course Documents folder). There will be a “Virtual Reading” at the end of the course in which students will share revisions of their strongest work.

Canvas/ Onid Emails/ Extra Help:
This class will utilize Canvas and Onid email frequently. I will often send out an email after class reminding about the homework or upcoming discussions. Additionally, we will post exercises, poems, presentations, and other links of interest. I’m always happy to respond to emails and poems if given adequate time to respond before assignments are due. I will hold virtual office hours for questions about course assignments, policies, etc.

COURSE STRUCTURE:
Although this is an on-line course, we will act, to an extent, as if the course meets on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule. Readings, exercises, critique letters, discussions, and poem assignments must be completed/turned in/posted by the Tuesday or Thursday they are due.

Under Canvas Course Documents you will find folders for Weeks 1-10; the first document in each folder will be a detailed schedule of topics, readings, exercises, poem projects, and activities for that week.

Workshop: Poems will generally have to be posted to the appropriate Discussion forum by Tuesday of a given week (please do this by .doc or .docx attachment in order to preserve your poem’s formatting). Each student must contribute substantial comments (see guidelines for workshop participation posted to Canvas Course Documents) to each poetry workshop in order to earn points for workshop participation.
Critiques: You will also be responsible for e-mailing a detailed critique letter to your assigned partners. **You must CC me in the e-mail so that I can log in your points.** My responsibilities: I will contribute to the workshop as a participant, and to some extent, a moderator. In addition, I will e-mail comments on each poem you submit; you will receive these comments within 10 days of posting your poems.

**Honesty and Civility:**

**Conduct:** For this class in particular, it is imperative that our classroom atmosphere remain comfortable, warm and understanding at all times; therefore, students are expected to treat their classmates and instructor respectfully. Comments posted in critique and discussion board should be constructive and respectful.

**Cheating,** in any form, is not tolerated at Oregon State University. Any plagiarism or use of someone else’s writing (including sentences or phrases), information, or ideas without proper attribution and citations – intentional or accidental – may result in an F on the assignment. A written report of Academic Dishonesty may be filed with the Dean’s office for further disciplinary action.

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

**Grade Percentage Breakdown:**
- Final Portfolio – 40 %
- Presentation—10 %
- Mid-Term Evaluation—10 %
- Journal –20 %
- Participation—20 %
  - Critiques, Verbal Participation, Reading Quizzes, etc.

**COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION**

Information on how to login to your course site can be found [HERE].

**STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our [Getting Started with DAS] page.

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for
accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT (OSU POLICY)**

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

[Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct](#)
[Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses](#)
[Policy On Disruptive Behavior](#)

**PLAGIARISM**

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

[Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct](#)
[Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#)

**Turnitin Plagiarism Prevention**

Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially
unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited.

Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information on Turnitin please click HERE.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

COURSE DEMO
GETTING STARTED

TUTORING
For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

Writing Center
Online Writing Lab

STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING
The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.