

Spring Quarter 2015

Syllabus: Writing Poetry I / II / III - English 247/248/249

Item #'s 1176, 1177, 1178

Instructor: **Martha Silano**

Preferred method of communication): Canvas Email. During the week I respond to emails within 24 hours (slightly longer on weekends). If Canvas email is down, email me at msilano@bellevuecollege.edu.

Phone: (425) 564-2078 (messages forwarded to my campus email address)

Office location: N/A – this is a 100% online course; instructor can be reached online through Canvas and/or Skype. I will hold a weekly online **office hour every Monday from 11 am-noon, except for Monday, April 13 and Monday, May 25 (because it's a holiday, my office hour will be 11-noon on Tues, May 26).**

Course Information

Course Outcomes

By the end of the quarter, each of you should be able to:

- Identify poems written in free-verse and fixed forms—noting their particular rhyme schemes, metrical patterns, sonic techniques, and other poetic devices—and be adept at identifying specific patterns of word choice, meter and rhyme (pantoum, sonnet, etc.);
- Identify and capitalize on strategies (such as journaling, timed writings, the use of writing prompts, freewriting, lowered expectations, scheduled writing times, etc.) in which you are more successfully able to draft, revise, and complete your own poems;
- Complete assigned creative work in a timely fashion, submitting it on scheduled due dates;
- Assess creative works of your peers, offering positive, specific, and helpful feedback for revision in a timely and respectful fashion;
- Increase your understanding of writing as a process, with first-hand knowledge that poems often require weeks or months of revision before reaching a state of completion;
- Demonstrate proficient participation in an active online writing community, including posting timely and engaging responses to discussion questions and to your peers' posts, as well as posing your own questions about the works being studied and analyzed;
- Appreciate that poems are written in a wide array of styles and voices and modes by writers who vary greatly in their ethnicity, cultural background, sexual orientation, age, class, gender, and physical abilities;
- Demonstrate, both with one's peers and while studying the work of professional poets, the ability to entertain multiple perspectives, experiences, imaginative abilities, and situations vastly different from one's own in the interest of fostering inclusivity and open-mindedness;
- Self-assess your process and progress in becoming a writer of poetry.

How Outcomes will be met:

This is a 100% online course. That means that all of the work for this class will be conducted online through Canvas Bellevue College's online learning delivery system. Using Canvas, the instructor will facilitate the following methods and practices to assist students in achieving the stated English 247/8/9 course outcomes: short written and videotaped lectures, critical analysis of assigned readings, small and large group online discussions, peer reviews of draft poems, an essay about a chosen poet, an essay about a live poetry reading you attend, submission of revised poems, along with quizzes, journal entries, a memorized poem presentation, an end-of-quarter virtual poetry party, and a final poetry portfolio. In addition, the instructor will provide prompt and instructive feedback on weekly discussions, journal entries, peer reviews, and submitted writing assignments.

DAILY POETRY DRAFT WRITING ASSIGNMENT: You will write a poem five days out of seven every week of *the quarter*, sometimes using the prompts provided by calendar date in our textbook, *The Daily Poet*, and other times following the weekly schedule instructions for which prompts to respond to on which days. Example: on April 6, you will write for 10-15 minutes using the writing prompt for that date: Skate-Away. Your daily poem drafts may be viewed as exercises (warm-ups) or as seeds for poems you will present via peer review/assignment submission throughout the quarter. If you have never done timed writing, consider using the stopwatch feature on your smart phone, so you know when to stop. Do not worry, as you are writing, whether what you are scribbling makes sense, is eloquent, is written in sentences, is polished. Grammatical and mechanical errors are fine. Trade focusing on being grammatically correct with a focus on accuracy of descriptive details, making wild and interesting comparisons (similes and metaphors), seeing how "out there" (daring, risky, quirky) you can get in terms of voice, style, diction, and syntax. You can write in a linear/narrative fashion, but don't feel obliged to. You don't even have to write in complete sentences, or make sense. The goal is to keep your pen (or fingers) moving, writing from a deep place in your psyche, a place that steers away

from cliché (tired phrases like “old as the hills” and “run for his money”) and aims to share experiences *that could only have been written by you*.

Weekly Structure of Course: the week generally runs from Monday morning through Friday or Sunday midnight

Early in the week:

Complete the assigned reading; post your assigned discussion response; begin brainstorming, freewriting, and drafting daily writing assignments using assigned prompts from *The Daily Poet*, choosing one to post for your weekly workshop poem.

Early Midweek:

Post two required comments to the weekly discussion thread; post your rough draft poem to the peer review discussion thread.

Late Midweek:

Provide two detailed peer reviews of your group mates’ posted draft poems.

End of Week:

Continue Peer Review of weekly assigned poem; submit your weekly journal entry and finalized poem and/or revision packet to the instructor by midnight.

Point Designations for Assignments & Activities	Points
Original Poems	90
Discussion Posts (live reading venue and poetics essay poet)	10
Weekly Online Discussion Questions (in response to reading)	100
Weekly Private Journal Entries	100
Weekly Peer Review (post rough draft & post comments)	200
Live Poetry Reading Essay	100
Revision 1 (3 poems)	50
Revision 2 (3 add'l poems)	50
Audio recitation of a memorized poem	25
Quizzes (10 x 5)	50
Virtual Poetry Party	25
Contemporary Poet Poetics Essay	100
Final Portfolio	100
Total:	1,000 points

Grading

FINAL GRADING SCALE (BASED ON 1,000 POINTS):

Letter Grade	Number Grade	# of Points
A	4.0-3.8	1000-930
A-	3.7-3.4	929-890
B+	3.3-3.1	889-860
B	3.0-2.8	859-820
B-	2.7-2.4	819-790
C+	2.3-2.1	789-760
C	2.0-1.8	759-730
C-	1.7-1.4	729-690
D+	1.3-1.1	689-660
D	1.0	659-650
F		649 & below

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog and also on the web at: http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/3/3000_grading.asp.

Books and Materials Required

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Agodon, Kelli and Martha Silano. *The Daily Poet: Day-By-Day Prompts for Your Writing Practice*. Seattle: Two Sylvias Press, 2013: **ISBN-10:** 149270653; **ISBN-13:** 978-1492706533.

Lockward, Diane. *The Crafty Poet: A Portable Workshop*. Kentucky: Wind Publications, 2013. ISBN 978-1-936138-62-3.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Grammar book, dictionary, & thesaurus.

OPTIONAL TEXTS:

There are many wonderful poetry reference books and guides that your instructor would be happy to recommend. Please don't hesitate to email her for suggestions.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES: writing notebook; file or computer folders for organizing free writes, drafts, and revisions, etc.; calendaring device for listing assignment and due date reminders.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

Instructor's Expectations

I ask that you participate actively (and to your best ability) in each day's assigned activities. Chronic Internet outages, travel, and/or lack of participation and/or posting for myriad reasons will likely lead to a lowered grade in this course.

I do not provide make-up work. That means that if you do not turn in assignments and participate in discussions during any given week, you forever lose the opportunity to receive credit for that missed work. Additionally, journal entries, discussion comments and peer review posts that do not reflect engagement and effort will be marked down accordingly and cannot be revised.

Guidelines for Submitting Late Assignments:

Journal entries will be marked down one (1) point per day for up to 48 hours (2 days). After two (2) days, journal entries will not be accepted.

Submissions of major writing assignments (including poems, revisions, papers) will lose ten (10) points per day they are late, for up to three (3) days past the due date. After three days, late submissions will not be accepted.

As they no longer serve a functional purpose for students accessing the course site, late peer review and discussion postings will not be graded.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Plagiarism

All assignments you complete for this course must present your own ideas in your own words. If you copy someone's exact words, you must put them in quotation marks. Even if you summarize or paraphrase someone else's ideas or facts, you are obligated to cite the source of those facts and ideas, that is, tell us where you found your ideas/facts. You will receive instruction regarding the basic conventions for citing your sources using MLA (Modern Language Association) citation guidelines.

I will not accept writing of any kind that you have downloaded from the Internet or copied from someone else, an essay you wrote for an earlier class, or an essay or poem in which you present someone else's words or ideas as your own. I will also provide a zero grade to any poem or essay that does not fit the specifications of the assignment guidelines for any given week.

Written work that does not present your own ideas in your own words or essays in which you do not cite your sources are considered to be plagiarized. If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero for the assignment or assignment sequence. If you plagiarize a second time, you will fail the course. Please note that once it is determined that your work is not your own, I will not negotiate a plan for relieving yourself of the consequences of your actions. For a more detailed explanation of plagiarism, read the official policy of the Division of Arts and Humanities: "Student Procedures and Expectations" <http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/artshum/studentinfo.html>. Unintentional plagiarism is still considered plagiarism and is punishable; saying you did not know you were plagiarizing is not an acceptable defense. Just in case a question of ownership arises, print out or save incremental drafts of your work often, keeping them in a file, folder, or binder.

Information about Bellevue College's copyright guidelines can be found at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/links/copyright.html>

Information about Bellevue College's copyright guidelines can be found at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/links/copyright.html>

A good resource for Plagiarism is the Writing Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

Student Conduct Code/Classroom Atmosphere

As this is a 200-level college course, I expect students to conduct themselves as mature adults. You can help to create a positive learning environment by respecting others' voices and views; completing assignments promptly and conscientiously; participating to the online discussions with a good attitude and an open mind; and accepting and giving feedback graciously. You will be expected to comport yourself in an inclusive and thoughtful manner when participating in discussions and peer reviews. Please join me in making the atmosphere in this class supportive, comfortable, and positive. While communicating online, the same level of respect and courtesy applies. Don't say anything in writing *that you would not say directly to someone's face in person (ftf)*. Let's strive to be kind and respectful this quarter as we provide constructive feedback and create and sustain an enriching and productive learning community.

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services." The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Values Conflicts

Essential to a liberal arts education is an open-minded tolerance for ideas and modes of expression that might conflict with one's personal values. By being exposed to such ideas or expressions, students are not expected to endorse or adopt them but rather to understand that they are part of the free flow of information upon which higher education depends. Getting outside of your comfort zone is one of the essential elements of a worthwhile education.

To this end, you may find that class requirements may include engaging certain materials, such as books, films, and art work, which may, in whole or in part, offend you. These materials are equivalent to required texts and are essential to the course content. If you decline to engage the required material by not reading, viewing, or performing material you consider offensive, you will still be required to meet class requirements in order to earn credit. This may require responding to the content of the material, and you may not be able to fully participate in required class discussions, exams, or assignments. Basically, if you sign up for this class, you are making a commitment to participate in the entire journey, not cherry-picking assignments that fall in line with your values. If you choose not to participate due to a values conflict, you will risk point losses due to non-participation.

Important Links

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam> .

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center: The DRC serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

Final Exam Schedule

There is no final examination for this course. A final portfolio of the student's best work, including drafts leading up to the finalized versions, along with a detailed self-assessment of the student's progress, will be submitted during the final week of the quarter, and is worth 200 points/20% of the final course grade.

Final examination schedule: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/classes/exams> ([Links to an external site.](#))

Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Course Calendar

The Course Calendar, including all assignment due dates, is available on the Canvas course website.

It is not that poems, unlike stories and essays, have no rules, but that every poem comes with its very own rule book; your job is figuring out the rules for each poem you write.