

Introduction to Poetry/Syllabus/Cynthia Zarin

Summer Session 2022

This is a Creative Writing workshop for students who are interested in reading and writing poetry.

The class is a seminar which meets once per week. The first half of the session will be devoted to readings, the second will be a workshop in which student work is discussed.

Readings:

While the instructor will occasionally assign specific readings, students will be responsible for bringing a published poem, written in English, to each session to share with the class. These poems will be posted on campus. Students will be prepared to present the poem to the class and to discuss it; these poems will make up the 'class anthology.' It is expected that students will read widely in poetry throughout the term.

Writing:

Poems: Students will submit an original poem to the workshop at each session, and these poems will be considered by the class, in rotation, as time permits. The poems will be posted on canvas. Often, these poems will be a response to a prompt given by the instructor. These prompts will include poetic forms (including the sonnet, the sestina, the villanelle ), as well as exercises in stanza form, point of view, poetic address, and discussions of subject matter. There will also be assignments in free verse.

Papers: Each student will write one short (1200 word) essay on a poem which the student has found particularly interesting or instructive. This paper will be due in the 3rd week of the session. These papers will not be critical essays; rather, the student will write about how the poem might influence or open questions about their own poetic process.

Grade Distribution: 40% workshop poems

20% class participation

15% short essay

25% final project

The class will not be recorded