



Course Title: The Poet's Way

Course Code: Poet 30 W

Instructor: Caroline Goodwin

Class Sessions and Recording

Meeting location: ~90-minute Zoom sessions, Friday and Saturday at 12 Noon Pacific time.

The class sessions will be recorded. Attendance at Zoom is entirely optional, but can be a fun and lively addition to our work together in Canvas. During Zoom, we will write to a prompt and then move into breakout rooms of 3-4 students for conversation and sharing.

Course Features:

- Assignments & Coursework
 - Assignments and course materials posted in Canvas
 - Required discussions in Canvas -- original creative writing plus brief feedback to one classmate per prompt
- Light individual feedback from instructor will be provided weekly in Canvas
- Optional live session -- Zoom meetings Friday and Saturday at Noon Pacific
 - Requires interaction and active participation

Course Summary

Poetry can be found in the most simple images and experiences, and need not be intimidating or difficult to understand. Walt Whitman wrote “I celebrate myself and sing myself,” and in this course we will aim to celebrate ourselves in writing. Designed for experienced and beginning poets alike, we will create a safe and inspiring space in which to explore the Poet Within. Every other day, students will receive a poem and a writing prompt. These should each take about an hour to complete (including the reading). All writings in this course should be *preliminary poem drafts*, NOT complex 14-line sonnets of iambic pentameter. The idea is to use the act of writing poetry as a way of accessing that part of ourselves that is connected to the poetry around and within us, and to build our understanding of how poetry operates.

Students need not have any poetry experience to benefit from this course. The point is to create a supportive and dynamic community of writers and thinkers, to provide accountability and interest, and to explore the ways in which a consistent writing practice can enrich our lives.

**Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements

- No Grade Requested (NGR)
 - This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
 - Students must complete fourteen poem drafts during the five weeks in order to earn credit.

**Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Textbooks/Required Materials

None.

First Assignment

None.

Tentative Weekly Outline

Week 1:	The Image We will freewrite and make lists of the images that speak to us, either from memory, dreams, or everyday life. We will read poems that make particular use of the strong, original image.
Week 2:	The Line We will read poems that make use of the line break and experiment with our own line lengths. How does a longer or shorter line change the feeling of a poem?

PRELIMINARY COURSE SYLLABUS

Week 3:	Sounds and Echoes We will listen carefully to ourselves, to one another, and to poems that rely on the reader's ear. What "chosen sounds" are speaking to us today?
Week 4:	Rhythm We will consider the ways in which poets use the rhythm of our English language (and other languages) to create an experience for readers.
Week 5:	The Poet's Way Poetry as a way of life! How to integrate poetry into our daily routines and keep ourselves writing...

After responding to the prompt, each student should take the time to read the draft of ONE classmate, and respond briefly in Canvas. This way, each student will know that their work has been received and appreciated.

Students are welcome to submit one poem draft to the instructor for light feedback every week. This writing may be very rough, and feedback will include points of interest and possible expansion.