“At the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet.” — Plato

Welcome to Writing the Love Poem!

Grading
You have three options:
1) No Grade Requested (this is the default option)
2) Credit/No Credit: Your attendance will determine your grade.
3) Letter Grade: Your attendance, participation, and submitted poems will account for 100% of your grade. A portfolio of at least six poems with a two-page preface is required.

Course Work
Reading: Over the span of 10 weeks, students will read a wide variety of poems and essays pertaining to writing and craft and participate in lively discussions on the assigned text. Students should expect to read approximately one short essay and 4-6 poems a week.

Writing
Students will have the opportunity to turn in 2-3 poems for workshop. New work will be generated by assigned prompts. Most writing will be done outside of the classroom, with class time used for discussion and workshop. Students should come prepared each week with pen and paper and the required text. By the end of the course, students should have completed a portfolio of approximately 6 poems and 2 revisions.

Workshop
A writing workshop is meant to support one another’s efforts with positive and critical feedback. Students will gain knowledge about their own work by listening to feedback and through their own careful consideration of the work of others. On scheduled workshop weeks, students will post their new poems to Canvas where the rest of the class can access and print them for workshop. Each student will receive written comments back from their peers and instructor.

Note*
Because this course is content specific, all reading material will be distributed in hand-outs by the instructor.
Preliminary Syllabus

Week 1

Welcomes and Introductions!

Week 2

Reading due: Emily Dickinson & Agha Shahid Ali
Topic: Writing the Ghazal
Workshop #1

Week 3

Reading due: William Shakespeare & Adrienne Rich
Topic: Writing the Sonnet
Workshop #2

Week 4

Reading due: John Donne & Christopher Marlowe
Topic: The Epistolary Poem
Workshop #3

Week 5

Reading due: Sappho & Rumi
Topic: The Erasure Form
Workshop #4

Week 6

Reading due: Pablo Neruda & Mary Oliver
Topic: Writing an Ode
Workshop #5

Week 7

Reading due: W.B. Yeats & Etel Adnan
Topic: Writing the Public Poem
Workshop #6
Week 8

Reading due: Galway Kinnell & Robert Creeley
Topic: The Process of Revision
Workshop #7

Week 9

Reading due: e.e. cummings & Edna St. Vincent Millay
Topic: Language Play
Workshop #8

Week 10

Wrap-Up/ Final Class Reading/ Goodbyes!
(Students will each read two of their revised poems)