Course Title: Writing Poetry: Shaping Language and Sound
Course Code: POET 19 W
Instructor: Kimberly Grey

Course Summary:

“It’s a human need, to give to shapelessness a form.” — Carl Phillips

Welcome to Writing Poetry: Shaping Language and Sound!

We will create an encouraging, invigorating community where we will discuss the craft of poetry and each other’s work in thoughtful, kind, and critical ways. I expect each student to be present in the conversations and dialogue we create through our assigned readings and to be equally invested in the work of their peers. The most unique aspect of this course will be the convergence of different backgrounds, aesthetic preferences, and perspectives. The course will unfold like this: at the beginning of each week I will give you a poetry prompt for you to consider as you work to create poem to submit for class feedback. In addition to writing a poem, you are also expected to complete the weekly reading assignments, which include reading approximately four-five poems and one short essay. You will participate in a discussion thread and write a short critique on approximately three-four of your peers’ poems. I want you to feel creatively stimulated and supported by like-minded, invested writers. Push yourself to step outside of the box and write the poems you've always wished you could write.

Grade Options and Requirements:

• **No Grade Requested (NGR)**
  o 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)**
  o Students must participate in at least 70% of the weekly discussions to obtain credit.

• **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**
  o Students must participate in at least 70% of weekly discussions and/or Zoom sessions, and complete four poems for workshop.

*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.*

Please contact the Stanford Continuing Studies office with any questions
365 Lasuen St., Stanford, CA 94305
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
650-725-2650
Tentative Zoom Schedule*:

Friday Evenings 9 PM Eastern Time

*Please note that the Zoom schedule is subject to change.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1
   Welcomes and Introductions
   *Post about yourself in the in Introduction thread. I’d like to know why you’ve decided to take this course and what you hope to accomplish by its completion. Let us know who your favorite writers are and what your favorite three words are (come on, we all have them!).

   Poems by Mark Doty, pg. 561
   Essay: “Getting Ready” pg. 7
   Poem #1 due

Week 2
   Poems by Sylvia Plath, pg. 368
   Essay: “Reading Poems” pg. 11
   Poem #2 due

Week 3
   Poems by W.S. Merwin, pg. 256
   Essay: “Imitation” pg. 13
   Poem #3 due

Week 4
   Poems by Denise Levertov, pg. 178
   Essay: “Verse that is Free” pg. 67
   Poem #4 due
Week 5
Poems by W.D. Snodgrass, pg. 237
Essay: “Sound” and “More Sound Devices” pg. 11
Poem #5 due

Week 6
Poems by Mary Oliver, pg. 409
Essay: “Imagery” Pg. 92
Poem #6 due

Week 7
Poems by Louise Glück pg. 503
Essay: “Diction, Tone & Voice” pg. 76
Poem #7 due

Week 8
Poems by Galway Kinnell, pg. 295
Essay: “Revision” pg. 109
Poem #8 due

Week 9
Poems by Carl Phillips, pg. 586
Essay: “Conclusion” Pg. 119
Poem #9 due

Week 10
Final Discussion & Reflection Response Due
Everyone will post one version of a revised poem, plus the original.

The Weekly Schedule

Friday Evening
* New Week Posted
* Check the prompt thread for your weekly Prompt and begin writing, if you wish.
* Begin reading assigned poems and essay for the next week.
Monday & Tuesday:
* Discussion thread will be open. The conversation will be on-going until the deadline. Your weekly response should be posted in the response forum by Thursday evening at 9 PM Pacific Time.
Wednesday:
* Post your poems for comments in one of five forums (A, B, C, D, and E) by 9 PM Pacific Time. Up to four students are welcome in each forum. Once four poems have been posted, you must choose a different forum. This is done so you can experience and read the work of different people each week.

**Thursday & Friday**
* Please read and comment on the poems in your forum. You will be reading around three-four poems and should write a kind, helpful response to each poem discussing what you like and what you think can be improved upon. Refer to the Diagnostic Questions above for a guide. All comments should be made by Sunday evening and should be at least a short paragraph long (around 4-5 sentences).

**Saturday & Sunday**
The weekend can be used to finish commenting on your peers’ poems or to begin next week’s reading or writing assignments. It won’t be logging into the classroom on the weekends very much, but that doesn’t mean that you can’t! Feel free to get a jump-start!

**Important Note:**
We all have busy lives and sometimes our daily responsibilities will take precedence over coursework. Please do what you can, when you can. If you miss a discussion one week or don’t have time to write a poem, please don’t worry! You can always go back and add to a discussion. A minimum of five poems (and one revision) should be written to obtain credit, so don’t feel pressure to write every week (unless you want to!). Most important here is the feedback you can give to your classmates. An online course is a unique experience as there are people coming together from all walks of life. The most valuable thing you can give to each other is your perspective. Please take the responsibility to each other’s work most seriously. The minimum I expect you do is to comment on one forum of poems a week. Everything else can wait if you’re busy. As always, if you have any problems or questions, please don’t hesitate to e-mail me so we can chat! I’m here for you and I’m excited to read your work!