

## ENGL 4604 – Forms of Poetry – Fall 2015

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### **Course Catalog Description:**

#### **ENGL 4604 - Forms of Poetry (3)**

A study of metrics, forms, and types of poetry in English with attention to the principal traditions and critical ideas associated with the writing of verse in English.

#### **Required Text:**

*The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms*. Ed. Eavan Boland and Mark Strand.  
ISBN 978-0-393-32178-4

#### **Detailed Description:**

In this course we will be looking at poetic form—as a type of play, as an intellectual puzzle, and as an organic force in which meter and stanza serve as generative tools that stimulate creativity. Fixed forms such as the sonnet, sestina, and villanelle will be of particular interest; however, we will also examine open forms, like the ballad or the ode, with an eye towards understanding each form's aesthetics and history.

#### **Written Work:**

In addition to in-class exercises and written reflections based on the readings, students will try their hand at writing verse in 4-5 different forms or styles (ex: a sonnet, a sestina, a ballad), which we will share in class (graded on effort, not artistry). There will also be a mid-term exam on terms and a final essay in which students will further investigate a particular form or school or their choice.