

ENG 4601-001 – Poetry Workshop – Fall 2021
****Course Description****

Prof. Michael Compton
Office: PT 324
Email: mjcomptn@memphis.edu

Class Time: TR 1:00-2:15 pm
Room: TBA

Course Description

The nature of poetry, critical approaches to the poem, and practical experience in writing and revising text. This is an advanced workshop course in the writing of poetry. Students must have already taken English 3606 (or some equivalent entry-level poetry workshop course at another university). We will primarily be writing and doing critical analyses of the work of others in the class. We will also discuss poems from the anthology.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will write poems that demonstrate advanced poetic skills.
2. Students will demonstrate a sophistication of expression, free of cliché, sentimentality, and jargon.
3. Student poems will reflect various possibilities for the crafting and subject matter of poems from the close examination of assigned readings.
4. Students will gain insight into the evolution of a poem.
5. Students will learn to articulate effectively critiques of the poems of others and to accept and learn from the critiques others offer to their own poems.

Text: *Poetry: A Writer's Guide and Anthology*, by Amorak Huey and W. Todd Kaneko. ISBN: 978-1350020153

Work Required:

1) **Eight original poems**, each at least 14 lines long, plus two revisions. You may turn in poems shorter than 14 lines, but it will take at least two shorter poems to equal one required poem, depending on length. Poems must be workshopped in class for full credit. (40% of grade)

2) **Workshop Participation & Written Commentary.** Students are expected to provide both oral & written commentary on every poem submitted to the Workshop. (30% of grade)

3) **Element and Genre Presentations.** Students will do three 5-minute presentations, one on a **poetry genre** and two on a **poetry element** from our textbook. (10% of grade)

Rewrite Anthology. At the end of the semester, students will compile and submit an “anthology” of four poems that have been workshopped in class and rewritten, with commentary on each. Rewrites should be significant, and commentary should be detailed (about 200 words for each poem). (20% of grade)