

Syllabus for CRW2300—Introduction to Poetry

Valencia College: Spring 2024

[Writing] is patient, sustained labor—no more, no less... --Vivian Gornick

Professor: Jill M. Sebacher **Office:** 5-151

Section CRN: 24546

Meeting Day/Time/Location: fully online

Contacting Your Instructor

- **Preferred/most timely method:** please contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the semester by sending a **message via Canvas Inbox**. Except in the case of my own illness, I will respond to your message within 24 hours Monday through Friday. This is the preferred method of communication to ensure a timely response as I spend a lot of time on Canvas and will see your message sooner than in Outlook.
- I'll also be holding **in-person office hours on West Campus** and **optional Zoom Q&A sessions on a weekly basis** that students can join to have their questions answered in real time.
- Please do not sent e-mail messages to my Atlas address.
- **Please do not reply back to e-mails/announcements sent to the entire class with your personal business.** Please send a separate message via Canvas Inbox with your questions and concerns so that we can maintain your privacy and avoid spamming others' inboxes.

Valencia Catalog Course Description

Introduction to Poetry is a poetry-genre specific class. Students will write original work to be submitted for critique and will critique the work of other students in interactive workshops during class. Students will be introduced to the conventions of poetry through selected readings.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will effectively manipulate language within the genre of poetry with attention to precision, appropriateness, conciseness, connotation, and freshness.
- Students will effectively use literary conventions including figurative language and imagery in poetry.
- Students will in a workshop setting, analyze, evaluate, and critique one's own writing as well as the writing of others.
- Students will analyze the work of established poets.

Course Structure and Activities Overview

How to Successfully Navigate This Canvas Course

Make certain you view and complete the coursework through the Modules tab in our Canvas course. The week's module will include any instructional material needed to complete the week's work along with any quizzes and assignments due. **Review all of the module pages before completing quizzes and assignments** as the modules are designed for progressive learning. Don't just go to the syllabus, look at what is due that week, and click on the assignments, skipping the

learning materials—instead, look through all of that week’s module pages, so you actually get the information you need to succeed on the assignments due.

For CRW 2300, **each week’s module** includes any **journal pages** due and the **creative prompt(s)** of the week, which you will use to inspire the poem drafts written in your journals. After you write an initial draft, the revision can begin to make drafts you like even better. While you revise poems, you may type up the handwritten drafts from your notebook and make Word document versions, making changes as you input the poem into your computer. You can then print the revised poem draft, cut away any extra white space on the page, and tape that printed version into your journal and have it count toward the journal pages due that week. I suggest you date your drafts within your journal and save your typed versions with the date after the poem title, so you can see all of the drafts of one poem over time. Never save over your work on the computer as you might want to go back to a previous draft's phrasing, which one can't do without saving revised versions as separate Word documents. Finally, any **analytical work and/or discussions** due that week will be included in the module.

Expectations of Students

- Students are expected to check their Atlas email and Canvas inbox on a regular basis throughout the week.
- Students can expect to devote **at least three hours each week** to this course.
- For guidelines on how to interact with your instructor and peers in an online learning environment, read through Our Practice of Respect and Community from Valencia's Peace & Justice Institute. Some highlights from these principles are:
 - Create a hospitable and accountable community.
 - Suspend judgment.
 - All voices have value.

Expectations of Instructor

- The Instructor will provide feedback on submitted assignments within **14** days.
- The Instructor will address students following the guidelines as indicated in Our Practice of Respect and Community Building from Valencia's Peace & Justice Institute.
- The Instructor will notify students of changes to the course work via the Inbox or Announcements tools.

Course Policies and Grade Breakdown

Attendance Policy

This is a mixed-mode or fully online course, available 24/7, managed through Canvas. You must have access to the Internet to complete the course requirements. Your online attendance will be checked each week based on your participation in the course and submission of coursework. In the event of an extended absence, you should contact me via Canvas message as soon as possible to indicate the reason. **Course modules close and absent students will miss important work and have their grades impacted if they fail to complete the weekly module work in Canvas.**

COVID-19 Late Work Policy and Grace Period for All

Late work will be accepted for students diagnosed with COVID-19. However, **students must reach out to the professor prior to the assignment's due date** to be able to submit their work late for course credit.

It's important to note that **the due date is different than the assignment's closing date** as there is a 24-hour grace period for everyone added to each assignment, just in case anyone's internet starts behaving crazily or another non-COVID illness occurs on the due date.

No-Show Policy

If you do not log in to the course during the first week and complete the orientation module and quiz, you will be withdrawn from the class as a "no show." Class attendance is required for online classes; students who are not actively participating in an online class and/or do not submit the required attendance activity or assignment by the scheduled due date must be withdrawn by the instructor at the end of the first week as a "no show". If you are withdrawn as a "no show," you will be financially responsible for the class and a final grade of "WN" will appear on your transcript for the course.

Withdrawal Policy

Per Valencia policy, a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of "W." The withdrawal date for this semester is March 15, 2024. A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. After the withdrawal deadline, faculty will not withdraw a student and the student will receive the grade earned at the end of the course. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F." If you do not intend to complete the course, you must withdraw yourself prior to the withdrawal date.

College Student Conduct Policy

Valencia is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but also to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. As a registered student, you assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that contributes positively to Valencia's learning community and that does not impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the college as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

Discussion Post and Assignment Requirements

Please ensure that your posts within discussions meet the following criteria:

- Comments are substantial—please make thoughtful, original, and relevant responses, which contribute to the overall learning of the group.
- Comments are positively stated—please consider that your tone of voice and body language can't be factored in to discussion threads and phrase any ideas for improvement of work being discussed in a kind and respectful manner.
- Discussion assignments are completed in a timely manner—post early to give your peers time to respond; this contributes to a rich discussion.
- Phrase comments in concise and grammatically correct language, avoiding profanities.
- Keep all comments, shared work and submitted assignments in this course at the PG13 level; no sexually explicit work is acceptable course content.

Academic Integrity

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts and self-expression.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words, ideas, pictures, design, and/or intellectual property without the correct documentation and punctuation. Presenting someone else's writing and/or ideas as one's own, according to the aforementioned plagiarism definition, will not be tolerated and will result in **an F or zero on the assignment**, which could cause failure in the course, and/or **the student's expulsion from Valencia**.

Students are forbidden to look at websites, articles, or books aside from the assigned class resources when completing assignments—we need YOUR thoughts expressed in your writings, not anyone else's! No AI-generated work is allowed in this course. Do not use anything from an online source unless instructed to do so by the professor! **Copying ANYTHING (sentences, phrases or ideas) from the internet constitutes severe cheating, which will result in an F or zero on the assignment.**

The only online sources that students may feel free to access (**but not use/quote in a paper**) are dictionary.com to review the spelling or meaning of a word and thesaurus.com to find synonyms for varying word choice. Please speak to the professor before looking at anything else.

Writing Requirements

- All hand-written work must be neat and **legible**. Microscopic or sloppy print will not be accepted.
- All typed that are **poetry** must be **single-spaced/ prose** (writing done in sentences) must be **double-spaced**.
- Work requiring Word document submission must be composed in the **Times New Roman** font set at **12pt**.
- The margins should be set at 1 inch on all sides unless a shape poem requires adjustment.

Textbooks and Supplies

To keep cost and availability issues to a minimum, this semester there are no required textbooks students must purchase for this course. To complete assignments requiring analysis of established poets' work, we will be using open access resources linked within module units and materials created by your instructor, such as Google Slides presentations and YouTube videos.

Required Supplies: A **100-sheet, wide-ruled composition notebook** (not spiral bound). These can usually be found at grocery stores and Walmart /Target. If you are self-quarantining due to illness, you can order online from one of those vendors and have it delivered to your home.

Suggested Books

If you can afford them, these books are wonderful tools that will serve you throughout your career as a poet from beginner to expert level.

1. *The Synonym Finder* by Jerome Rodale is the best thesaurus I know that one can lift without causing injury. It's available in Kindle, paperback and hardback through Amazon.
2. *The Teachers & Writers Handbook of Poetic Forms* 2nd edition edited by Ron Padgett explains and gives examples of numerous poetic forms so you can learn and explore ones you haven't tried yet; this is also available via Amazon.



Grade Breakdown and Grading Scale

Grade Breakdown

Assignment Type	%
Journal Pages	20%
Quizzes and Graded Explications	20%
Assignments and Discussions	15%
Tests	25%
Final Portfolio	20%

Grading Scale

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
89.5 - 100%	A
79.5 - 89.4%	B
69.5 - 79.4%	C
59.5 - 69.4%	D
59.4% and below	F