

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
**MODERN LETTERS**

*Te Pūtahi Tuhi Auaha o te Ao*

**CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAMME**

**COURSE OUTLINE: CREW 253 POETRY WORKSHOP**

**Second trimester 2008**

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**Staff**

Course coordinator	Chris Price.
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Visiting writers will also participate in the course.

**Class Times**

Workshops take place 3.10 - 6.00 pm on THURSDAYS in the seminar room, International Institute of Modern Letters. The first workshop is on Thursday July 10 2008. The structure of workshops will vary, but generally at least two hours of each session will comprise class work and discussion. The remainder of the workshop time will be occupied with videos, lectures, student presentations or discussions with visiting writers.

**Aims and Intent**

By looking at both the reading and the writing of poetry, CREW 253 will enable members of the course to focus on their own writing as well as on aspects of both contemporary NZ and international poetry. They will gain an awareness of the imaginative possibilities of poetry, as well as a variety of technical approaches to the writing of it. They will develop their skills as a reader (as well as a writer) of poetry.

In the first half of the semester there will be weekly exercise work. Exercise work will be presented for group discussion at the following session. The group may focus on such topics as 'found' poetry, specific poetic forms and aspects of technique, and such sub-genres as 'list' poems or odes. Discussion

of contemporary poetry in general will be a part of each weekly session, and students may be asked to give short presentations on particular poems or collections. In the second half of the semester students will present their folio work-in-progress to the group for discussion. Students will also be required to provide written commentaries on folios presented by other members of the class.

By the end of the course, students will be used to discussing and critiquing their own work, as well as that of their peers. They will have completed a number of exercises aimed at expanding their sense of the possibilities of poetry and the forms it might take.

### **Course Materials**

There is one set text for this course: an anthology of poems, which must be purchased from the Student Notes Shop, ground floor of the Student Union Building. An optional but recommended text is *An Anthology of New Zealand Poetry (in English)*, edited by Jenny Bornholdt, Gregory O'Brien and Mark Williams (Oxford University Press, 1997). Other photocopied materials may be presented to the class. The set text will be often be referred to in the workshop, so students will need to bring it along.

**Note:** Photocopying will be an additional expense. Members of the course will need to bring along thirteen copies of each weekly exercise, and the work they are presenting in their folio session, for distribution around the class. The work should be typewritten or printed from a computer.

### **Assessment**

Assessment for the course CREW 253 will be based on a portfolio of original poetry you will submit at the end of the course. TWO typewritten or printed copies of your folio must be submitted by **Wednesday 22 October**. Two examiners (the workshop teacher and one independent assessor) will evaluate each folio. After assessment is completed, one copy of your portfolio will be returned to you, along with reports from the two readers.

NOTE; CREW 253 is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. If you pass the course, you will received Grade H (ungraded pass).

### **The Folio**

CREW 253 folios must comprise a minimum of twelve and a maximum of 20 poems produced during the course. You should also add a short prose introduction or afterword outlining your objectives and priorities as a writer, and how you see your work developing. Poems written prior to the

workshop (including those which may have been submitted in your original course application) may only be included if they have been substantially revised. Submissions should be 'shaped' into something approximating a small volume of poetry.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

In CREW 253 **you must attend all workshops and complete all the prescribed exercise work and commentary writing.** If you do not meet these requirements your folio will not be assessed and you will automatically fail the course.

### **Workload**

CREW 253 is formally a 22 point undergraduate course, but many students tend to treat it as a full-time undertaking. Considerable time should be spent reading poetry as well as working on original material. Full-time undergraduates should expect to spend at least 15 hours per week on this course (including workshop hours). It is suggested that students, if possible, attend poetry readings while on the course, including those in the Institute's free Writers on Mondays series (1 pm each Monday from 14 July at the National Library of New Zealand (Molesworth Street). These will be mentioned during the course.

There may also be an opportunity for interested students to work with Waite-ata Press, based at Victoria University, on the production of a hand-printed anthology of poems by workshop members, and/or with Massey fourth-year 'expressive typography' students on the production of a graphic rendition of poems for an end-of-trimester exhibition.

### **Workshop Timetable**

Our first session will be introductory. The next six sessions will focus on discussion of weekly exercise work. There will then be four sessions focussing on folio work, and over this period Chris will also have an individual conference with each student to discuss the contents of their final portfolio.

<b>Thursday July 10</b>	Introduction
<b>Thursday July 17</b>	Exercise workshop
<b>Thursday July 24</b>	Exercise workshop
<b>Thursday July 31</b>	Exercise workshop
<b>Thursday August 7</b>	Exercise workshop

<b>Thursday August 14</b>	Exercise workshop
<b>(two week mid-trimester break)</b>	
<b>Thursday September 4</b>	Exercise workshop
<b>Thursday September 11</b>	Folio workshop
<b>Thursday September 18</b>	Folio workshop
<b>Thursday September 25</b>	Folio workshop
<b>Thursday October 2</b>	Folio workshop
<b>Thursday October 9</b>	Final workshop
<b>Wednesday October 22</b>	<b>Folios handed in (folio party at IIML)</b>

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support