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 2009

Staff

Course coordinator   James Brown
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Visiting writers will also participate in the course.

Dates

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October
Study week: 19 to 23 October

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 16 2009. 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 Content and course delivery

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 recommended text is *Twenty Contemporary New Zealand Poets* edited by Andrew Johnston and Robyn Marsack (VUP/Carcanet 2009). Other photocopied materials may be presented to the class. The set text will be often be referred to in the workshop, so students will always 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 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 **Thursday 29 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 receive 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 (12.15 pm each Monday from 14 July at Te Marae, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa).   These will be mentioned during the course.

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 James will also have an individual conference with each student to discuss the contents of their final portfolio.

Thursday July 16	Introduction
Thursday July 23	Exercise workshop
Thursday July 30	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 6	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 13	Exercise workshop
Thursday August 20	Exercise workshop
(two week mid-trimester break)	
Thursday September 10	Exercise workshop
Thursday September 17	Exercise workshop
Thursday September 24	Folio workshop
Thursday October 1	Folio workshop
Thursday October 8	Folio workshop

Thursday October 15	Final workshop
Thursday October 29	**Folios handed in (folio party at IIML)**

Communication of additional information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students by email to all class members.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: *http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx*

General University Requirements

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx