

Summary of Evaluations: Introduction to Creative Writing (Poetry)

Spring 2015

Quantitative Evaluations

Note: Score range is 1-5; 1=Very strongly disagree, 5=Very strongly agree

Question	Score
The instructor met classes and was prepared for class	4.64
The instructor was reasonably accessible outside of class through office hours and email	4.79
The instructor provided useful feedback on written and oral work, and returned papers and assignments in a timely manner	4.82
The instructor challenged students with high standards/expectations	4.79
Average score	4.76

Qualitative Evaluation

select comments

1) *How did your understanding of poetry change over the course of this semester?*

“I’ve definitely developed a deeper understanding of the purpose and effect of poetry. I’ve also broadened the scope of what I consider to be poetry.”

“I took this class grudgingly because it was the only creative writing class that was open to me that would count toward the minor. I knew nothing about poetry and didn’t really like it. But I have gradually gained confidence in my writing and obtained a love for the art of poetry. This class inspired me to continue working on my poetry in the future and maybe even submit it for publication. I have truly grown to love it!”

“I definitely have a more in-depth knowledge of poetry now. And what makes me happy is that it’s not just a knowledge of poetry, but other social, societal, and historical issues that come along with it too.”

2) *What craft elements did you master this semester?*

“I learned that line breaks and intentional pauses can truly reshape the meaning of the poem.”

“I think I mastered finding my personal voice and relying on it to write honest poetry rather than trying to change it.”

“I’ve become much better at using concrete and precise language in my writing.”

Elizabeth Hoover

3) Thinking about the activities in relation to poetry and the cosmos and poetry of witness. What do you think poetry can contribute to conversations about our understanding of the universe or our world?

“Poetry can spark very important and necessary conversations, and can be a medium for discussing difficult topics.”

“Poetry is about human experience. It embodies what we know, what we don’t know, and what we want to know more about. It lets us see other perspectives. It’s a window to the world.”

“I think poetry is a mirror to society showing its flaws in an unabashed way allowing people to see things from a new perspective.”

4) Are you a better writer than you were in January? Why or why not?

“Yes. I have learned which rules to break.”

“I don’t know if I am necessarily a better writer but I am a more aware writer. I now really take time to consider word choice, syntax, and other craft elements to really exert effort in my written work.”

“Yes. Having to write a poem a week routinely allowed me to experiment and make progress as a writer.”

5) Are you a better reader than you were in January? Why or why not?

“Yes. I read line by line slowly now instead of just looking for the grand scheme.”

“I am a better reader now. I had previously read poetry obsessing over every word that I didn’t understand, paying no attention to the sound of the poem. As I relaxed my reading methods, the meaning came more easily and I recognized the elements we discussed in class.”

“Poetry can provide alternative view points on these. Poetry bridges the gap between art and argument.”

6) Please share any memorable moments, concepts, or ideas that you will carry with you after this class ends.

“I really loved all of our class discussions and sometimes learned more about poetry and its place in life from our side tracked discussions than from boring power point presentations.”

Elizabeth Hoover

“I really appreciated when you took moments to offer your office as a space for students to discuss problems such as sexual assault or alcohol abuse. Although these were not issues I faced this semester, it was comforting to know we had a familiar face and resource if needed.”

“I will always keep in mind some funky re-vision tactics for when I have writer’s block.”