English 4110  
Advanced Poetry Workshop  
W 6:30-9:20, Fall 2010

Professor: Corey Marks  
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Office Hours: W 2:30-4:00, Th 5:00-6:30 & by appointment

Course Description

A developing poet needs to study craft, poetic tradition and the contemporary state of the art. This semester we will read widely—both poetry and prose about poetry—and write and revise original works. As writers you will be asked to complete assignments that will lead to more sophisticated understandings of imagery, form, structure and subject matter. As readers you will respond to poems and essays by accomplished writers of the past and present.

Electronic Group

You MUST join our class’ Yahoo group. We will use this group to share poems and communicate outside of class. Before our next class, send an email to:

ENGL4110-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or go to:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ENGL4110/join

Follow the directions link to create a yahoo account and join our class’ group. As the group’s moderator, I must approve your request online. Once I’ve done so, you’ll be ready to post your poems and download your peers’ work.

Required Texts

*Late Wife*, Claudia Emerson  
*Book of Props*, Wayne Miller  
*Structure and Surprise*, Michael Theune, ed.

Attendance

Because this course focuses on in-class discussion, regular attendance is essential. Absences will harm your grade, and three or more will result in failure of the course. Notify me by phone or email prior to missing a class. You are responsible for any materials distributed or assignments made during your absence. If you intend to stop attending the class, it is your responsibility to inform me of your decision and to take care of the necessary paperwork.
Visiting Writers

This semester poet Claudia Emerson will visit campus and you will be required to attend her reading on **Thursday, November 12** at 8 p.m. in the Silver Eagle Suite, University Union. If you cannot attend, you must write a three-to-five page response to the poet’s work due the class period immediately following the reading.

Poet Wayne Miller will also visit campus on the evening of Thursday, October 21. I strongly encourage you to attend his Q&A/reading. Full details TBA.

Workshop Procedures

You will be expected to participate in workshop both by putting your own work forward for discussion and by commenting on your peers’ poems. You will be expected to read, discuss and write comments on the poems from both groups. We may not have time to accommodate all the pieces handed in each week, and while we’ll make an effort to workshop a majority of the poems you write over the semester, it is possible we won’t be able to discuss all of them. Nonetheless, each poem you hand in on time will receive detailed written comments from your peers as well as from me.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade will be based on:

1. Creative work (50%):
   a. At least six original poems
   b. A final portfolio, including significant revisions of at least three poems
2. Participation and Attendance (30%):
   a. Active participation in discussing your peers’ poems
   b. Active participation in discussions of course readings
   c. Written responses to peers’ poems
   d. Response to visiting poets
3. Critical work (20%):
   a. Ten-poem anthology drawn from recent issues of literary journals introduced by a five-page essay

I reserve the right to offer quizzes over the readings if I deem it necessary.

Special Needs:

If you need any special accommodations, please let me know. The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.
Further readings will be added during the semester.

**Week 1**
*September 1*
Introduction to course

**Week 2**
*September 8*
Due: Poem 1

**Week 3**
*September 15*
Workshop: Poem 1

**Week 4**
*September 22*
Read: “One Body: Some Notes on Form,” Robert Hass; selections (including the introduction) from *Structure & Surprise*, Michael Theune
Workshop: Poem 1
Due: Poem 2

**Week 5**
*September 29*
Workshop: Poem 2

**Week 6**
*October 6*
Read: “On Disproportion,” Tony Hoagland
Workshop: Poem 2
Due: Poem 3

**Week 7**
*October 13*
Workshop: Poem 3

**Week 8**
*October 20*
Read: *Book of Props*, Wayne Miller
Workshop: Poem 3
Due: Poem 4
**Thursday, October 21**
Wayne Miller reading/Q&A

**Week 9**
**October 27**
Read: Selection from *Structure & Surprise*
Workshop: Poem 4

**Thursday, October 28**
Wayne Miller Reading/Q&A
details TBA

**Week 10**
**November 3**
Workshop: Poem 4
Due: Poem 5

**Week 11**
**November 10**
Read: *Late Wife*, Claudia Emerson
Workshop: Poem 5

**Thursday, November 11**
Claudia Emerson Reading
8 p.m., Silver Eagle Suite, University Union

**Week 12**
**November 17**
Workshop: Poem 5
Due: Poem 6

**Week 13**
**November 24**
TBA

**Week 14**
**December 1**
Read: “Against Poetry,” Adam Zagajewski
Workshop: Poem 6

**Week 15**
**December 8**
Workshop: Poem 6

**Week 16**
**December 15**
Portfolios due in my office by 8 p.m.