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.

Blackboard/Class Communications

Check Blackboard regularly (I’d suggest several times a week) for announcements, changes to syllabus, etc. You may use the email system to contact me to ask questions or let me know you might miss class. You will be posting your poems to Blackboard’s discussion boards as an attachment. You will also use Blackboard to access and print the poems of your classmates. All comments on poems should be made in writing on your printed copies and during class discussion. We will not be using blackboard as a venue for responding to peer work. If you don’t know how to use Blackboard, it’s your job to figure it out immediately.

Required Texts

Enchantée, Angie Estes
The Earth Avails, Mark Wunderlich

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 two poets will visit campus. You are required to attend their readings.
Angie Estes will read **Tuesday, March 24** at 8 p.m. in BLB 180. Mark Wunderlich will read **Thursday, April 16, 2015** at 8 p.m. in BLB 180.

If you cannot attend either reading, please let me know as soon as possible. You’ll need to write a three-to-five page response to the poet’s work due the class period immediately following the reading.

**Workshop Procedures**

You will participate in workshop both by putting your own work forward for discussion and by commenting on workshopped poems. I expected you to read, discuss and write comments on your peers’ poems. While we may not have time to accommodate all the pieces handed in each week, we’ll make an effort to workshop a majority of the poems you write over the semester. Even if we aren’t able to discuss all of them, 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 (25%):  
   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 poet

3. Critical work (25%):  
   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**
**January 26**
Introduction to course

**Week 2**
**February 2**
Due: Poem 1

**Week 3**
**February 9**
Workshop: Poem 1

**Week 4**
**February 16**
Workshop: Poem 1
Due: Poem 2

**Week 5**
**February 23**
Workshop: Poem 2

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

**Week 7**
**March 9**
Workshop: Poem 3
Spring Break
March 16

Week 8
March 23
Read: Enchantée, Angie Estes
Workshop: Poem 3
Due: Poem 4

Estes Reading
Tuesday, March 24
8 p.m. in BLB 180

Week 9
March 30
Workshop: Poem 4

Week 10
April 6
Workshop: Poem 4
Due: Poem 5

Week 11
April 13
Read: The Earth Avails, Mark Wunderlich
Workshop: Poem 5

Wunderlich Reading
Thursday, April 16
8 p.m. in BLB 180

Week 12
April 20
Workshop: Poem 5
Due: Poem 6

Week 13
April 27
Read: “Against Poetry,” Adam Zagajewski
Workshop: Poem 6

Week 14
May 4
Workshop: Poem 6
Week 15
May 11
Portfolios due in my office by 7 p.m.