



Making Poems: An Introduction to Verse Undergraduate Course Information Sheet

Course Number: CCA 172, 4 credits, 10 Weeks

Cross listed Course Number: AI 172, 2 or 4 credits, 10 Weeks

Delivery Formats: Online Async

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Course Description

Making poems will be a creative writing offering that teaches metrics and verse forms, poetry the old-fashioned way. Topics will include metric feet, rhyme, lines, and verse forms. For example, students will learn about the iambic foot, write some iambic lines of various lengths, and finally use the iambic line to write a sonnet. Rap poetry with its structured rhythms and elaborate rhyming is another possibility. This "formalist" approach promotes a kind of creativity that is strongly infused with craft and discipline in contrast to the "spoken word" or confessional approaches to making poems. This class involves making audio recordings of your poems; students will be required to purchase a headset/microphone and download and install free software.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Create an original work of art, explore its relationship to artistic form, and reflect on the creative process.
- Accurately divide words into syllables.
- Locate primary stress in polysyllabic words.
- Identify several kinds of metric feet (iamb, dactyl, anapest).
- Create both near and perfect rhymes.
- Write various poetic lines including but not limited to iambic tetrameter, iambic pentameter, and anapestic trimeter.
- Construct stanzas of various kinds (e.g., ababcdecde).

- Write a ballad.
- Write a sonnet.
- Reflect on the nature of creativity.
- Reflect on the impact that formal requirements and constraints have on the creative process.
- Understand the relationship of an individual artist to a poetic tradition.
- Assess your own connection, intellectually and emotionally, to this process.

If in a SCPS competence program, (BAIFA, BAC, BAGB, BAECE), this course addresses the following requirements:

| Competence | Competence Statement / Criteria |
|------------|---|
| A1C | Can analyze artistic or textual works in terms of form, content, and style. |
| A2A | Can create an original work of art, explore its relationship to artistic form, and reflect on the creative process. |
| A5 | Can define and analyze a creative process. |

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Learning Strategies and Resources

Some learning activities, assignments and deadlines will vary depending on the delivery format of the course and may differ slightly from what is presented in this document.

This course assumes that everyone is a beginner and that progress is more important than perfection. A series of short exercises in fundamental elements of form leads to assignments that are shared, workshop-style, on the class discussion board. You will share all of your original creative works on our class discussion board, and engage with the works of classmates by responding thoughtfully to several postings each week, in a way that demonstrates your new and accumulated learning.

Required Readings

Books and learning materials are available at the DePaul bookstore, at <http://depaul-loop.bncollege.com>, or through alternative sources.

Oliver, M., Cliver, M., Rules for the Dance: A Handbook for Writing and Reading Metrical Verse, HMH Books, 1998. ISBN-13: 9780395850862.

Additional readings may be available on Electronic Reserve, at the [DePaul Library](#). Login to Ares Course Reserves and select the course. Log in using your Campus Connect User ID and password. You will then get a page listing the courses in which you're enrolled that have readings posted in Ares. Click on the title of this course and the list of our electronic reserve readings will be displayed.

Learning Deliverables

Early short exercises will lead to complete poems written in later weeks, using formal stanza patterns. These will also be workshopped. In addition, you will write short analytical essays and discussion posts aimed at exploring some central questions about poetry and poetic traditions. You will conclude the course by writing a final reflective essay that looks back over the whole experience of the course.

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Assessment of Student Learning

Distribution of Grade Points

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Discussion post and peer responses | 30% |
| Short exercise and peer response | 45% |
| Portfolio or Competence Essay | 15% |
| Final Reflections Essay | 10% |

Grading Scale

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| A = 95 to 100 | A- = 91 to 94 | B+ = 88 to 90 |
| B = 85 to 87 | B- = 81 to 84 | C+ = 77 to 80 |
| C = 73 to 76 | C- = 69 to 72 | D+ = 65 to 68 |
| D = 61 to 64 | F = 60 or below | INC |

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Course Schedule

| Week and Module Title | Readings TBA | Assignments |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Week 1, Module 1: | | 1.1 Introduction: Discussion post and peer response. |
| Week 2, Module 2: | | 2.1 Polysyllabic Words: Short exercise and peer response. 2.2 Rhyme and Rhythm in English Verse: Discussion post and peer response. |
| Week 3, Module 3: | | 3.1 Iambic Tetrameter: Short exercise and peer response. 3.2 Iambic Pentameter: Short exercise and peer response. |
| Week 4, Module 4: | | 4.1 Three-Syllable Rhythms: Short exercise and peer response. 4.2 Why Do People Write Poetry?: Discussion post and peer response. |
| Week 5, Module 5: | | 5.1 Iambic Tetrameter Couplets: Short exercise and peer response. 5.2 Iambic Pentameter Couplets: Short exercise and peer response. |
| Week 6, Module 6: | | 6.1 Ballad Stanza: Short exercise and peer response. 6.2 Form and Creativity: Discussion post and peer response. |
| Week 7, Module 7: | | 7.1 Blues Poetry: Short exercise and peer response. 7.2 What Does Poetry Do?: |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| | | Discussion post and peer response. |
| Week 8, Module 8: | | 8.1 Sonnet: Short exercise and peer response. 8.2 Bending and Breaking the Rules: Discussion post and peer response. |
| Week 9, Module 9: | | 9.1 Portfolio or Competence Essay: |
| Week 10, Module 10: | | 10.1 Final Reflections Essay |

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Course Policies

For access to all SCPS and DePaul University academic policies, refer to the following links:

[SCPS Student Resources Website](#)

[DePaul Student Handbook](#)

The [D2L Course Website](#) for this course.

Course Syllabus

The official syllabus for this course that includes course dates, instructor information and quarter specific details will be provided by the course instructor by the start of the course and available on the course D2L website.

Course Registration

To find out when this course will be offered next, you can go to the [SCPS Registration website](#) for details on how to register for the course.

For information on how this course can apply to your program, contact your academic advisor.

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