

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: CRWR-156-Introduction to Poetry

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): lecture

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Candace Fertile (please call me Candace)

EMAIL: fertile@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 337

HOURS: W 2:30-3:30; F 10:15-11:15

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

In this course, students develop their skills in the composition of poetry. Students will study and practice elements such as traditional and experimental forms, figurative language, and the creation of voice. Students will prepare to share their work with an audience.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

C+ in English 12

C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

- Write poems that are well-crafted.
- Identify the writing techniques used in the crafting of a poem.
- Develop a writing process using journaling, free-association exercises, drafting, work-shopping, revising, and editing/proofing.
- Vary poetic style purposefully using concrete and abstract language, structure, point of view, syntax, rhythm, sound, image, and metaphor.
- Use a variety of poetic strategies including the lyric and the narrative.
- Use a variety of forms including fixed forms, blank verse, and free verse.
- Read diverse, established poets to identify their poetics.
- Read their own poetry to an audience of peers.
- Identify the process and avenues for poetry submission.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Writing and Workshopping Poetry: A Constructive Introduction, by Stephen Guppy (in the Camosun Book store)

Access to D2L

8.5 X 11 inch paper and pen (blue or black ink) or pencil (bring to class)

Budget for photocopying

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

The course uses *Writing and Workshopping Poetry: A Constructive Introduction* as a guide. Each week, we will focus on particular poems included in the book, and I'll let you know which ones in advance. You will also be given exercises and prompts for creating poems.

The course includes the following: reading the chapters as assigned in the text (Guppy), discussing specific published poems, responding to prompts, doing exercises, writing poems, reading and commenting on other students' poems, reading work aloud, learning terminology and techniques, participating in class discussions, and doing whatever else we can think of to develop appreciation for poetry and skills to create it. Discussions may be in small or large groups.

A typical 80-minute class includes time spent on the fundamentals including terminology and strategies, discussion of a poem (or poems), and creative exercises. We will be considering *Writing and*

Workshopping Poetry mostly in order, but as there is no clear path to writing poetry (apart from reading as much poetry as possible and trying to write it), I encourage you to jump around in the book. It is a useful resource.

Remember that writing poetry is a creative endeavour, and like any endeavour, knowing what has been done may help you to develop your own skills.

Information will be given in class and posted on D2L.

Please note that the poetry assignments are specific. For example, you may have to write, for example, a sonnet or a villanelle (don't worry—we will cover what those are) or a poem on a particular subject. And all poetry, I believe, has a form, whether the poem is written in a traditional form or in free verse (does not rely on meter or rhyme scheme). (Again, don't worry—we will cover that.)

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams).
<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
10 poems, one per week starting Jan. 24 (directions given in advance)	65
In-class work (pop quizzes, exercises, peer review, participation, etc. throughout course)	20
Final quiz (April 9)	15
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.

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Please note: Under normal circumstances, students who cannot pass the cumulative in-class assignments will not pass the course. "Cumulative" here means multiple in-class assignments throughout the semester. Students who are concerned about this course requirement are encouraged to seek guidance and clarification from the instructor as early as possible.

As this course is about your creative writing, the use of AI is not allowed unless expressly permitted.

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

- You are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and be prepared, having done the required reading. Participation marks cannot be earned if you are absent or you are unprepared.
- Turn off all devices. Make notes by hand. If you have a compelling reason to have your phone on, just let me know why at the beginning of the class.
- At times, the use of devices will be permitted, but until then, keep them off (unless you have arranged to have your device on or you have an accommodation from CAL).
- All work submitted must be your own and must be done for this class (no recycling of poems you have already written).
- Guidelines for poems will be given in advance of due dates.
- Late work is not normally accepted.
- The course has no make-up work or extra assignments for extra grades.
- Extensions may be given at my discretion, but must be negotiated before the due date, and they are not guaranteed to be granted. You need a good reason.
- Email is answered usually within 24 hours except for weekends and holidays.
- Put the course name (CRWR 156) in the subject line of email to me.
- Any material that I hand out in class will also be put on D2L (e.g., assignments and extra information), but this course is not designed as an online course. In-person participation is vital.
- I urge you to make friends with other students. Friends are important. They are also a source of help if you need to be absent for any reason. I cannot reproduce missed classes, so it's up to you to get notes from another student.
- The class is a mix of lecture, small group discussion, large group discussion, and writing.
- The course requires that you share your work with other students.
- Your writing may be used to exemplify points I wish to make in class. I will do so anonymously when possible, but you will need to share your work with the class.
- The class does not focus on grammar as it is assumed that you have basic skills. Common problems will be identified and explained.
- Developing your writing requires practice. This course offers you the chance to practice and play with words.
- Everyone needs help sometimes. Please see me if you are struggling, and we can try to find a way forward. I want you to succeed. I also want you to have fun.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines: <https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal

(see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.