

**San José State University
School/Department
ENG 240, Spring 2013**

Instructor: Kim Addonizio
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays 4-7pm
Classroom: HB 405
Prerequisites:
GE/SJSU Studies Category:
Course Fees:

Course Description

A workshop is a space of both encouragement and challenge, where egos should be left outside the door to sulk, grieve, and envy in bitter isolation. In the workshop, we are colleagues working toward a shared goal: truth and beauty in our art. This requires both openness and resistance. The emphasis will be on work created during the semester based on a series of assignments. We'll be using Michael Theune's *Structure & Surprise* as a text, and our focus will be on those two elements of poetry. Students will be expected to memorize a poem and perform it toward the end of the semester, as well as prepare a presentation on a book of poems to look at elements of structure as they apply on the level of both individual poems and the overall collection.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

MFA Poetry Track Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this MFA workshop, students will be able to:

SLO 1: Students will demonstrate a high-level of ability to write and complete a publishable, full-length work of literature in a primary genre concentration (poetry).

SLO 2: Students will demonstrate high-level of proficiency to write works of literature in a secondary genre concentration (poetry).

SLO 3: Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of literary history, literary theory, and craft and theory of creative writing.

SLO 4: Students will demonstrate critical and analytical skills in the evaluation and interpretation of literary texts.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

LO1 Better understand various kinds of structures employed in poems and books of poems

LO2. Produce a body of new and revised work

LO3. Memorize a poem

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Structure & Surprise: Engaging Poetic Turns, ed. Michael Theune. Teachers & Writers Collaborative, ISBN-13: 978-0915924271

Other Readings

TBA

Classroom Protocol

Attendance:

This is a workshop class; the presence of each one of you at every class is necessary and required. Understanding that life inevitably throws a curve or two, let me know in advance by phone, text, or email if you must miss a class. You are still responsible for all assignments, readings, and class material; please get information from another student about what you've missed.

Lateness:

Lateness is rude to your fellow students. Please respect them, and me, by showing up on time!

In Class:

This should be a space for everyone to be taken seriously as a developing artist and exchange ideas, inspiration, and encouragement. Critique should aim at opening up possibilities rather than shutting down the writer. I also expect everyone to participate; every single person's voice in this workshop is important. Confine your cell phone use to the class break, unless I ask you to use it for something, like Googling a poem or literary term.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/Academic_Calendars/) web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/Academic_Calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading & Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following:

- *Evidence of serious engagement with your own poems and process.
- * Assigned poems brought to class on time. Late ones won't receive a hearing or any feedback; missing ones will lower your grade.
- * Class participation (this includes providing considered feedback on other students' poems and offering comments during workshops and discussions of readings).
- *Book presentation
- *Recitation of your memorized poem.

Workshop

The aim of this workshop is to encourage new writing and deeper thinking about one's own poems and the poems of others. We're going to pay special attention to poetic structure, and to the various ways poems can surprise. Students must submit their poems for the workshop one week prior to discussion (when asked—we will vary advance readings with occasional cold readings), with one copy for the instructor and paper copies for the workshop participants. Students must provide written feedback each week on the poems of every other student. During workshop, students must actively participate in the discussion.

Writing Assignments

Occasionally, I'll assign a specific poem, based on the readings from Structure & Surprise, to be brought in for the workshop. This is not to direct your writing style, but to give you the opportunity to explore, in your own way, some of the craft we'll be talking about. At other times, you are free to bring in whatever you like, which may or may not be inspired by our readings.

Book Presentation and Buddies

Each of you is going to have a "buddy" to work with on presentation of a book of poems (I'll provide a list for you to choose from). You can meet and/or email to discuss your questions, ideas, and the form your presentation will take. I'll give you more info in class. You may also want to meet with your buddy to talk about revisions, or just get together for some writing time.

Recitation

Each student will memorize a poem (of at least 14 lines) to recite to the class. Performance is encouraged, but not mandatory. If you are shy, you need only to learn the poem and recite it. If you want to add elements of theater, dance, music, film, etc. that will enhance your presentation, you are welcome to.

Final Meeting: Poetry Salon

Our last meeting on May 14 will take place at my house in Oakland; each of you will give a reading of 5-7 minutes, of work written and revised during the semester. You are welcome to invite friends and family.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise

specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.at.sjsu.edu/asc/) at <http://www.at.sjsu.edu/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Eng 240 / Poetry Workshop Spring 2013 Course Schedule

This is my ambitious agenda for us—some of which we may not get to. I'll give you a week or two's notice on changes; being flexible within structure is important on all levels! PLEASE BRING A POEM YOU CONSIDER FINISHED TO THE FIRST CLASS.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 29	Introduction and review of syllabus. Book presentation requirements. Hear everyone's poems. Discussion of turns and structure.
2	Feb 5	--Structure & Surprise, Introduction & Chapter 1. Discussion of ironic structure. --Book presentations assigned --Poem #1 due -- Workshop A
3	Feb 12	--Structure & Surprise, Chapter 2. Discussion of emblem structure. --Workshop B
4	Feb 19	--Poem #2 (concessional or emblem poem) due for full-class discussion
5	Feb 26	--Structure & Surprise, Chapter 3. Discussion of concessional structure. --Poem #3 due Workshop B
6	March 5	--Structure & Surprise, Chapter 4. Discussion of retrospective-perspective structure. --Workshop A
7	March 12	Poem #4 due; full class workshop
8	March 19	--Structure & Surprise, Chapter 5. Discussion of elegies. --Book presentation 1
9	March 26	NO CLASS*****SPRING BREAK*****
10	April 2	--Poem #5 (an elegy) due --Full class discussion of elegies --Book presentation 2
11	April 9	---Structure & Surprise, Chapter 9. Discussion of substructure. ----Book Presentation 3
12	April 16	--Book Presentations 4 and 5

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		--Discussion of revision
13	April 23	--Sonnet Day, in honor of Shakespeare's birthday; readings TBA --Poem #7 due (a revision)
14	April 30	--Workshop A --Book presentation 6
15	May 7	--Workshop B
16	May 14	Poetry Salon/Reading at my house in Oakland
Final Exam		none