

**ENGL 4630: Poetry Workshop (Persona Poetry)**  
**Fall 2017**  
**MW 2:30-3:45 p.m./ AH N127**

**Instructor:** Anna Harris-Parker  
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**Office Hours:** MW 1-2:30 p.m.,  
& by appointment

**Course Description**

An intensive practicum in the writing of poetry. Students will write and revise their own poetry, participate in a weekly workshop of evaluation and criticism, and read extensively in the work of contemporary poets.

**Course Goals**

This course is designed to give students extensive practice in the writing of persona poetry—from invention to revision—and to demonstrate the close relationship between reading and writing through the evaluation of criticism and creative work by contemporary poets, as well as original student poetry.

**Learning Objectives**

Students will . . .

- gain extensive practice in the development of original poems by keeping a writing journal or folder for *all* drafts.
- read a variety of contemporary persona poetry in order to become more familiar with the sub-genre and the broader, literary community to which they belong.
- submit weekly poems for instructor and classmate feedback.
- participate in frequent workshop critiques.
- implement select instructor and peer suggestions in revisions of poems included in his/her final chapbook project.

**Pre-Requisites:**

(ENGL1101 >= C or ENGL1113 >= C) and (ENGL1102 >= C or ENGL1114 >= C) and (ENGL2110 >= C) and (ENGL 3605 >= C or ENGL 3610 >= C or ENGL 3615 >= C) and (ENGL 3630 >= C or ENGL 3640 >= C or ENGL 3660 >= C) or permission of instructor.

**Teaching Philosophy:**

Through original writing, close reading and lively discussions, students and instructor will form a dynamic, unique writing community aimed to expand our worldview and improve our creative process and products. Everyone is equal and essential to the success of maintaining an honest, diplomatic class.

This syllabus is subject to change. It is your responsibility to note announcements made in class and posted on [lms.augusta.edu](http://lms.augusta.edu).



## Expectations:

### Attendance Policy:

According to the [Augusta University Catalog](#), “if the student has been absent for more than the equivalent of 10 percent of class time, regardless of cause, then the professor may withdraw the student from the class for excessive absences.” If you exceed **three absences**, for any reason, you will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W (pre-Midterm) or a grade of WF (post-Midterm).

Continued tardiness can also affect your attendance in this course.

### Classroom Demeanor:

Students are expected to attend each class meeting—on time, and prepared. While I empathize with students who are shy and hesitant to talk, discussion is key to success in this course. Often, in-class participation is the only tool I have for knowing whether or not students are keeping up with daily assignments. I expect students to be respectful of one another and of me. We are a diverse community of readers, writers, and thinkers, so follow [The Golden Rule](#).

Drinks are permitted in class; however, distracting food is not. Additionally, please silence and put away your cell phones prior to class. If your phone or other technologies (e.g., e-Readers, iPods, tablets, laptops) disrupt class, I will ask you to leave, and you will be marked absent for the day. If you have extenuating circumstances, please let me know prior to class time.

### Texts and Resources

Steve Scafidi, *To the Bramble and the Briar*\*

Janet E. Kaufman and Anne F. Herzog, *The Collected Poems of Muriel Rukeyser*\* (“Book of the Dead”)

Frank X Walker, *Turn Me Loose*\*

Jo Carson, *Stories I ain’t Told Nobody Yet*\*

Ashley M. Jones, *Magic City Gospel*

Ellen Bryant Voigt, *Kyrie*

Marilyn Nelson, *Mrs. Nelson’s Class*

A basic grammar handbook (e.g., from ENGL 1101/1102)

Folder/binder

Pens/pencils

\*You do not need to purchase these titles. They are available to download/read online via GIL, accessible through Reese Library’s website.

### Evaluation

- **Participation** (90 pts.): Students will be evaluated based on the extent of and quality of their daily participation in class (incl. workshop) discussions.
- **Reading Responses** (210 pts.): Reading responses are due upon the completion of *most* assigned texts. This semester, students will compose a total of seven (7) one-page responses, worth thirty (30) points each.
- **Persona Project Memo** (100 pts.): Within the first month of the semester, students should determine what local/regional event, figure, or legend s/he wishes to explore through poetry. This research will require you to locate information about your select subject, as well as other documents and/or materials about the time in which s/he lived. We will make use of campus resources; however, you should plan to conduct much of this work on your own. Prior to writing your poems for this project, you must submit a proposal, in the form of a memo, and receive approval. (Additional details are forthcoming.)

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- **Poem Drafts** (300 pts.): All students are responsible for submitting one original, new poem at the beginning of class on each of the assigned due dates (see Course Schedule). Each of the ten (10) assigned poems are worth thirty (30) points each.
- **Chapbook** (200 pts.): During exam week, students will submit a collection of *at least eight (8) original, revised poems* in the form of a *handmade chapbook*, which serves as the final portfolio for this course. (Details are forthcoming.)
- **Final Reading** (100 pts.): During the final exam for this course, students will give a public reading of their work.

Total: 1,000 pts.

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

The grades you earn reflect your effort, progress, and professionalism. While you may strive for an A or B, know that a C does not indicate “average” work; a C signifies you are meeting expectations.

**Upon receipt of graded work, I ask that students wait 24 hours before contacting me to discuss my evaluation.** If you ever have any questions about your standing in the class, or about my grading policy, please do not hesitate to ask. I am here to help you succeed.

### **Work Format**

All work, unless otherwise specified, should be typed (12 pt. Times New Roman), double-spaced, and utilize one-inch margins and standard MLA headers and headings. All writing assignments should also include an original title. Students should submit their work in hard copy format at the beginning of class on the assigned due dates.

### Make-up and Late Work Policies:

Because I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, **I do not accept or give make-up work for credit. I also do not accept late work.**

### **Academic Honor**

The Augusta University Catalog states, “Plagiarism is the failure to acknowledge indebtedness to the authors/creators of works used to complete such assignments and/or other course requirements. It is always assumed that the work offered for evaluation and credit is the student’s own unless otherwise acknowledged. Such acknowledgment should occur whenever one quotes another person’s actual words; whenever one appropriates another person’s ideas, opinions, or theories, even if they are paraphrased; and whenever one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative materials, unless the information is common knowledge. Further, it is expected, in the production of creative work, that the student’s work products are original, and that any images, sounds, or other intellectual properties that are not the original work of the student will be used fairly and with acknowledgement of the original source(s).” Please consult the Catalog for more information on the university’s academic honesty policy.

### **Student Needs**

If you have a disability that requires accommodation in this course, please contact Testing and Disability Services in Galloway Hall as soon as possible for information on the documentation procedure. Call (706) 737-1469 or email [tds@augusta.edu](mailto:tds@augusta.edu). Without this documentation, I cannot provide special accommodations.

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### Additional Support for your Learning

The Augusta University Writing Center: The Writing Center is a safe space for students of all majors and disciplines to discuss their writing. Our friendly staff offers support for student writers at any stage in the writing process, including brainstorming, drafting, and revising. By offering free, one-on-one peer consultations, the Writing Center empowers students to make well-informed decisions about their texts while helping them to develop an individualized writing process. Online and in-person appointments can be made at <https://aug.mywconline.com/>. The Writing Center is located in Allgood Hall, room N204.

### Other Course Policies

All other aspects of this course will follow the Pamplin Course Policies posted online at this URL: [www.AU.edu/colleges/pamplin/docs/coursepolicies.pdf](http://www.AU.edu/colleges/pamplin/docs/coursepolicies.pdf). Please read them carefully, as they include additional important information about Academic Honesty, Disruptive Behavior, Accommodations for Disabilities, Withdrawals, and other topics. **By remaining in this course, you agree to abide by these policies.**

### Course Schedule:

The following schedule is subject to change, but provides a fairly reliable indication of the pace, assignments, and major deadlines that you will need to plan for throughout the semester.

Notes: *Reading and written assignments appear next to the dates in which they are due.* LMS=*lms.augusta.edu.*

Date	Assignment
Wednesday, August 16	Introductions/Course Overview
Monday, August 21	Introduction to Poetry Edward Hirsch's essay "How to Read a Poem" (LMS)
Wednesday, August 23	Introduction to Persona Poetry Select Readings (LMS)
Monday, August 28	Jo Carson's <i>Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet</i>
Wednesday, August 30	Jo Carson's <i>Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet</i> <b>Reading Response #1 Due</b>
Monday, September 4	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>
Wednesday, September 6	Visit Special Collections in Reese Library
Monday, September 11	Frank X Walker's <i>Turn Me Loose</i>
Wednesday, September 13	Frank X Walker's <i>Turn Me Loose</i> <b>Reading Response #2 Due</b>
Monday, September 18	Steve Scafidi's <i>To the Bramble and the Briar</i> <b>Persona Project Memo Due</b>
Wednesday, September 20	Steve Scafidi's <i>To the Bramble and the Briar</i> <b>Reading Response #3 Due</b>

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Saturday, September 23 <i>Extra Credit</i>	Attend and/or volunteer at the Berry Fleming Book Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Summerville Campus
Monday, September 25	Muriel Rukeyser's "Book of the Dead" (all sections) <b>One-page extra credit report due</b> ( <i>If applicable</i> )
Wednesday, September 27	Muriel Rukeyser's "Book of the Dead" (all sections) <b>Reading Response #4 Due</b>
Monday, October 2	Introduction to Workshop <b>Poem #1 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)
Wednesday, October 4	Marilyn Nelson's <i>Mrs. Nelson's Class</i> <b>Poem #2 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)
Monday, October 9	Workshop: Group 1 <b>Reading Response #5 Due</b>
Wednesday, October 11	Ashley M. Jones's <i>Magic City Gospel</i> <b>Poem #3 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)  <i>Midterm: Last day to drop a class with a grade of W</i>
Monday, October 16	Workshop: Group 2
Wednesday, October 18	Patrick Phillips, select poems (LMS) Drew Lanham, select essay (LMS)
Monday, October 23	<i>Alternate Class Meeting</i> : Sand Hills Writers Series, featuring Patrick Phillips and Drew Lanham, 1:00-3:00 p.m., JSAC Coffeehouse
Wednesday, October 25	Ellen Bryant Voigt's <i>Kyrie</i> <b>Poem #4 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.) <b>Reading Response #6 Due</b>
Monday, October 30	Workshop: Group 3 <b>Reading Response #7 Due</b> <b>Poem #5 Due</b>
Wednesday, November 1	Workshop: Group 1 <b>Poem #6 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)
Monday, November 6	Workshop: Group 2 <b>Poem #7 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)
Wednesday, November 8	Workshop: Group 3 <b>Poem #8 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)
Monday, November 13	Workshop: Group 1 <b>Poem #9 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)

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Wednesday, November 15	Workshop: Group 2 <b>Poem #10 Due</b> (Bring copies for class.)
Monday, November 20	Workshop: Group 3
Wednesday, November 22	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
Monday, November 27	Introduction to Book Arts
Wednesday, November 29	Out-of-Class Working Day
Monday, December 4	Reading Selection/Practice
Wednesday, December 6	Reading Selection/Practice
Exam Week: <b>Wednesday, December 13, 2-4 p.m.</b> <b>Location: TBA</b>	Final Reading <b>Chapbook Due</b> ( <i>Will not be returned. Make two copies if you wish to keep one.</i> )