

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MASTER SYLLABUS

**INTRODUCTION TO POETRY WRITING  
ENGL 2620**

**Class Hours: 3.0**

**Credit Hours: 3.0**

**Laboratory Hours: 0.0**

**Date: Fall 2010**

**Catalog Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of writing poetry, focusing on free verse with a goal of eventual publication. Students learn techniques of composing and editing poems while gaining exposure to poets and poetry written by inspired practitioners.

**Entry Level Standards:**

Students should have knowledge of expository writing and analytical skills derived from freshman composition; students should also be familiar with basic literary terminology and genres.

**Prerequisites:**

ENGL 1020

**Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:**

Cohen, Sage. *Writing the Life Poetic*. Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 2009. Print.

**I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	Reading: <i>Writing the Life Poetic</i> ( <u>WLP</u> ) 203, handouts Written assignment: Haiku
2	Reading: <u>WLP</u> 204-205 Written assignment: Pantoum
3	Reading: <u>WLP</u> 206 Written assignment: Sonnet
4	Reading: <u>WLP</u> 64-67 Written assignment: Free verse in images: mirrors and simile semblances
5	Reading: <u>WLP</u> 109-113 Written assignment: Free verse in lines: working the white space
6	Reading: <u>WLP</u> 97-100 Written assignment: Making music: rhyme, rhythm, and repetition
7	Reading: <u>WLP</u> 84-86 Written assignment: Sound: writing out loud

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| 8  | Handout<br>Written assignment: Sculpting free verse  |
| 9  | Reading: <u>WLP</u> 187-191<br>Written assignment: Writing the Zeitgeist                                   |
| 10 | Reading: <u>WLP</u> 171-173<br>Written assignment: Lectio divina: the ancient art of reading and listening |
| 11 | Reading: <u>WLP</u> 137-139<br>Written assignment: Letting your dreams lead you                            |
| 12 | Reading: <u>WLP</u> 114-116<br>Written assignment: Cultivating a writing ritual                            |
| 13 | Reading: <u>WLP</u> 165-167<br>Written assignment: Memorization: Becoming one with poetry                  |
| 14 | Reading: <u>WLP</u> 130-133<br>Written assignment: The art of revision: submission of portfolio            |
| 15 | Finals   |

## II. Course Goals\*:

The course will:

- A. Impart the techniques of imaginative literature and the critical approaches that clarify its nature and meaning. I.1, I.4, II.1, II.6
- B. Encourage appreciation of imagination and the discipline required to produce imaginative literature. I.1, I.4, II.6
- C. Develop and expand a sensitivity to and a thoughtful attitude toward one's cultural heritage and literary works shaping that heritage over time. II.2, II.4, II.5
- D. Strengthen the skills of writing and revising and of critical reading and thinking. I.1, I.4, I.5, I.7, II.1, II.2, II.6
- E. Expose students to poetic contributions of diverse cultures, each characterized by its own themes, techniques and styles. II.1, II.3

\*Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBR's general education goals.

## III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes\*:

The student will be able to:

1. Examine drafts to analyze audience and message and to evaluate for effectiveness and clarity. B, D
2. Recognize the style and contributions of guest speakers who are published poets. C, D, E
3. Evaluate assigned manuscripts and participate in class discussion. A, B, C
4. Analyze/critique poetry from the vantage of a working poet. A, B, C, D

5. Identify and write traditional fixed poetic forms. A, B, D
6. Identify and incorporate in writing more than a dozen types of figurative language. A, B, D
7. Identify and incorporate in writing various stanzaic structures and metrical patterns. A, B, D
8. Identify and incorporate in writing various sound devices. A, B, D
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the history and traditions of poetic forms that influence modern verse. A, B, D

\* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

#### **IV. Evaluation:**

##### A. Testing Procedures:

Two written examinations will test students' knowledge of concepts and mastery of technique, constituting two-thirds of the course grade.

##### B. Laboratory Expectations:

None

##### C. Field Work:

None

##### D. Other Evaluation Methods:

Students will keep a portfolio of all written assignments, exercises, and projects. This portfolio will constitute one-third of the final course grade.

#### **V. Policies:**

##### A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of the Learning Division, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of the Learning Division.

##### B. Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting

published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.

- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

#### C. Accommodations for Disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at [www.pstcc.edu/departments/swd/](http://www.pstcc.edu/departments/swd/).