

POETRY AND THE HUMAN (ARTS) CRWR 18200

This spring-term Arts course is intended as a potential sequel to the first two quarters of the Humanities sequence “Poetry and the Human,” but can also be taken as a freestanding course. Through a combination of seminar discussions and creative writing workshop sessions, it focuses upon literary arts practice (form, material, and voice) as a way of approaching many of the questions raised over the Autumn and Winter terms. It considers the role of poetry in different traditions (Japanese, English, Persian, etc.) from aesthetic, philosophical, and performative angles. Students in the PATH sequence (Hum) will have priority registration for this course; other students may register for any remaining seats.

Required Texts

Matsuo Basho, *Narrow Road to the Interior*, trans. Sam Hamill (Shambhala)
William Shakespeare, *The Sonnets* (edition TBA)
Agha Shahid Ali, *Call Me Ishmael Tonight: A Book of Ghazals* (Norton)

Schedule

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS

Review syllabus and in-class writing ‘warm-up’ exercises

WEEK 2: JAPANESE HAIBUN

Reading: Matsuo Basho, *Narrow Road to the Interior* and selected haiku

In-class writing exercise (haiku)

WEEK 3: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN HAIKU

Reading: James Merrill, “Prose of Departure”

In-class writing exercise (haiku/haibun)

WEEK 4: WORKSHOP

Creative writing workshop on students’ haibun

WEEK 5: EARLY MODERN SONNETS

Reading: William Shakespeare, *The Sonnets*

In-class writing exercise (sonnet)

WEEK 6: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SONNETS

Reading: Selected sonnets by Gwendolyn Brooks, Ed Roberson, and Wanda Coleman

In-class writing exercise (sonnet 2)

WEEK 7: WORKSHOP

Creative writing workshop of students' sonnets

WEEK 8: CLASSICAL & CONTEMPORARY GHAZAL

Reading: Hafez, selected ghazals; Dick Davis, introduction to *Faces of Love*
Agha Shahid Ali, *Poetry Call Me Ishmael Tonight: A Book of Ghazals*

In-class writing exercise (ghazal)

WEEK 9: WORKSHOP

Creative writing workshop of students' ghazals