

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS – ENGL 3714, SPRING 2008

For 1/23 (W) Memory

- Read MEMORY section in Reader; Focus on *The Gift* – Li Young Lee; *Once When I was in Eighth Grade* – Maurice Guevara; *Ode to my Socks* – Pablo Neruda
- Check out p. 8-20 (“I couldn’t stop watching”) & 30-35 (“Shards of Memory”) in Kowitz
- Comment on Jewel & Nimoy (“I Love You”) poems for Mock Workshop

SOME EXERCISES: Poems 1,2,3,7,8 in Kowitz

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Allison Joseph – *Soul Train* (208), Lisa Busceni – *Miss Mary Mack* (71), Carole Bernstein – *When My Grandmother said “Pussy”* (49), Maurice Kilwein Guevara – *Once When I Was in the Eighth Grade* (171), David Scott Ward – *My Brothers Make a Lantern* (416)

For 1/28 (M) Image & Sense

- Read IMAGE & SENSE section in Reader; Focus on *Transients Welcome* – Greg Orr; *From my Window* – C.K. Williams; *The Fish* – Elizabeth Bishop; *Snonglobe* – Sean Thomas Dougherty
- Check out 129-136 (“Deranging the Senses”) & 38-47 (“Awful Poems”) in Kowitz
- **KITCHEN POEMS DUE**

SOME EXERCISES: Write a poem about a gesture or movement (like “Embrace”), a scene you’ve witnessed (like “From my Window”), an object or animal (like “The Fish”), or a place (like “Beer” and “Outside Room Six”)

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Lance Larsen – *Red* (227), Lisa D. Chavez – *Clean Sheets* (89), Brenda Shaughnessy – *Your One Good Dress* (364), Kim Roberts – *The Plastic Cup* (332), Kevin Powell – *Harlem: Neo-Image* (310)

For 1/30 (W) Field Trip

You will be taking yourselves on a class outing to the Perspective Art Gallery in the University Union (<http://www.uusa.vt.edu/artGallery/index.php>) to see the American Black Farmers Project (photos) by John Francis Ficara (<http://www.americanblackfarmersproject.com/index.html>). Please read the EKPHRASIS POEM assignment in your Course Reader (in the Image & Sense section) for more details.

For 2/4 (M) Simile

- Read SIMILE section in Reader
- Check out p. 64-78 (“Figure and Image”) & 79-87 (“The Controlling Metaphor”) in Kowitz
- Be sure to read and comment on poems for workshop!
- **EKPHRASIS POEM DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17.

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Beth Gylys – *Balloon Heart* (174), Kate Light – *The Idea of Love Between Us* (236), Lisa Glatt – *Amanda* (161)

For 2/6 (W) - Metaphor

- Read SIMILE section in Reader

For 2/11 (M) Emotion – Love/Longing/Desire

- Read EMOTION – OOVE/LONGING/DESIRE section in Reader
- Check out p. 194-205 (“As Soon As These Blossoms Open: The Poetry of Love and Longing”) & 206-214 (“Bodies Flaring in the Moonlight: The Poetry of Desire”) in Kowitz
- **NEW POEM DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Laura Kasischke – *My Heart* (217), Mary Ann Samyn – *The Art of Kissing* (352), Reginald Shepherd – *Who Owns the Night and Leases Stars* (368), Jacqueline Berger – *Getting to Know Her* (45)

For 2/13 (W) Emotion – Loss/Anger/Despair

- Read EMOTION – LOSS/ANGER/DESPAIR section in Reader
- Check out p. 215-224 (“Flower Burning in the Day: Poems of Loss”) in Kowitz

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Nick Flynn – *Bag of Mice* and *Emptying Town* (144), Ruth Schwartz – *When They Know* (356), Julie Moulds – *Late Summer Litany* (281), Frankie Paino – *A Matter of Division* (296)

For 2/18 (M) – Narrative

- Read NARRATIVE section in Reader
- Check out p. 94-100 (“Family Secrets: The Poem as Photograph”) in Kowitz
- **NEW POEM DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 18, 19, 20.

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Laura Kasischke - *Fatima* (214), Julia Kasdorf - *Eve’s Striptease* (212), Judy Jordan - *Through These Halls* (206), Terrance Hayes - *At Pegasus* (181), Crystal Williams - *For The White Lady Holding Me* (431)

For 2/20 (W) – Lyric

- Read LYRIC section in Reader
- Check out p. 234-243 (“Poetry and the Awakened Life”) in Kowitz
- **PAPER 1 DUE (CLOSE READING OF A POEM)**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 67, 68, 69

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Olena Kalaytiak Davis – *The Panic of Birds* (112), Larissa Szporluk - *The Grass and the Sin* and *Duressor* (388), Constance Merritt – *Lullaby* (276), Karen Volkman – *Seasonal* (413)

For 2/25 (M) – Place & Landscape

- Read PLACE & LANDSCAPE section in Reader
- Check out p. 225-233 (“Into the Dazzling Void: Writing About the Natural World”) in Kowitz
- **NARRATIVE POEM DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 65 & 66. Try taking yourself to a new place to write (coffee shop, university union, library, outdoor space)—try to notice details of place and see if they’re poem-worthy or can be juxtaposed with an emotional experience.

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Campbell McGrath - *Shrimp Boats, Biloxi* (265), Kevin Young - *Eddie Priest’s Barbershop & Notary* (453), Joe Bolton – *The Lights at Newport Beach* (59), Mary Ann Samyn – *Trompe L’Oeil in Winter* (353)

For 2/27 (W) – Sound & Language

- Read SOUND & LANGUAGE sections in Reader
- Check out p. 56-63 (“After-Glow: The Interior Music”) & 111-120 (“The House of Language”) in Kowitz
- **FIRST PAPER DUE – POETRY CLOSE-READING PAPER!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 10, 24, 25, 26, 27

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Suzanne Gardinier – *Blues* (155), Sean Thomas Dougherty – *Long Coats with Deep Pockets* (127), D.A. Powell - *[A Long Line of Bobunks...]* (309), Paul Beatty – *Independent Study* (29)

For 3/10 (M) Formal Forms – Meter & Blank Verse

- Read the following excerpts and poems in your Reader:
Meter: “History & Contemporary Context of Meter” from *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Forms; Say You Love Me* – Molly Peacock
Blank Verse: “History & Contemporary Context of Blank Verse” from *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Forms; Directive* – Robert Frost
- Check out p. 146-153 (“Playing with Meter”) & 165-168 (“A Cribsheet of English Meters”) in Kowitz
- **POEM REVISION DUE!** (Be sure to staple your revision to the original draft with my comments on it!)

For 3/12 (W) Formal Forms –Sonnet

- Read the following excerpts and poems in your Reader:
Sonnet: “History & Contemporary Context of the Sonnet” from *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Forms; White, White Collars* – Denis Johnson; *Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day?* – Shakespeare; *Heat* – Denis Johnson
- Check out p. 159-164 (“Sonnets and Villanelles”) in Kowitz

SOME EXERCISES: Try a sonnet or a loose sonnet (14-line poem), or a poem in blank verse. In Kowitz: Poems 36, 38

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Craig Arnold – *Why I Skip my High School Reunions* (sonnet, 23)

For 3/17 (M) Formal Forms – Sestina, Villanelle, Pantoum, Ghazal

- Read the following excerpts and poems in your Reader:
Sestina: “History & Contemporary Context of the Sestina” from *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Forms; Spokane Tribal Celebration, September 1987* – Sherman Alexie; *The Business of Fancydancing* – Sherman Alexie, Mr. X – Catherine Bowman; *Sestina* – Elizabeth Bishop
- Villanelle:** “History & Contemporary Context of the Villanelle” from *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Forms; One Art* – Elizabeth Bishop; *Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night* – Dylan Thomas; *The Waking* – Theodore Roethke
- Ghazal:** *Ghazal* – Agha Shahid Ali; *Ghazal of Faithfulness* – Bruce Williams
- **POEM IN FORM DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: Try a sestina, villanelle, pantoum, or ghazal. In Kowitz: Poem 37

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Beth Gylys – *Fat Chance* (villanelle, 174), Beth Gylys – *Family Reunion-Aunt Verne’s Two Cents* (sestina, 175), Sascha Feinstein – *Blues Villanelle for Sonny Criss* (141), Beth Lisick – *Pantoumstone for a Dying Breed* (241)

For 3/19 (W) Exploring the Line

- Read EXPLORING THE LINE section in Reader
- Check out p. 169-180 (“Line Breaks”) in Kowitz

SOME EXERCISES: Try an extremely short or extremely long-lined poem. Take a poem you’ve already written and play with the line breaks and line-lengths. In Kowitz: Poems 39, 40, 41, 42

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Kevin Powell – *Genius Child* (310), Rohan B. Preston – *Chicago Blues* (311)

For 3/24 (M) – Exploring the Line Some More

- Please read this essay in the Reader: “On the Function of the Line” by Denise Levertov. Come to class prepared to discuss Levertov’s essay.
- **NEW POEM LINEATED TWO WAYS DUE!**

For 3/26 (W) – Discussion of Mark Doty’s Poems

- Please read *My Alexandria*, by Mark Doty (the entire book). Come to class prepared to discuss Doty’s collection.

For 3/31 (M) – Voice & Tone

- Read VOICE & TONE section in Course Reader
- Check out in p. 121-128 (“Dream Work and the Magical Image”) and p. 48-54 (“The Art of Revision”) in Kowitz
- **NEW POEM DUE!**

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: G.E. Patterson – *Letter From Home* (301), Joanna Fuhrman – *Personal Ad* (151), Brenda Shaughnessy - *Your One Good Dress* (364)

For 4/2 (W) – Persona

- Read PERSONA section in Course Reader
- Check out p. 88-93 (“Myth, Legend, and Pop Icon”) in Kowitz
- **BOOK REVIEWS OF *My Alexandria* DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poem 18. Try a poem in the voice of a widow who’s lost her husband at sea, in the voice of an intriguing stranger you saw on the bus, in the voice of Elvis.

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Charles Rafferty - *The Man on the Tower* (317) and *The Arsonist Tells His Story to the Attorney* (318); Catie Rosemurgy - *An Angel Finally Admits What She Knows to Lou Binkler of Bethany, Missouri* (344)

For 4/7 (M) – Prose Poems

- Read PROSE POEM section in Reader
- Check out p. 21-29 (“Little Poems in Prose”) in Kowitz
- **PERSONA POEM DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poems 4, 5, 6. See if you can write a prose poem that maintains some sort of internal rhythm despite the lack of line breaks. Try using syntax, repetition or rhyme to do this.

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Peter Markus – *Black Light* (248) and *Light* (249) and *Shooting Crows* (249), Sean Thomas Dougherty – *Cocoons* (127), Justin Chin – *Why he Had to Go* (93), Sherman Alexie – *Father and Farther* (6), Heid E. Erdrich – *Fat in America* (135)

4/9 (W) – Political Poetry

- Read POLITICAL POETRY section in Reader
- Check out p. 182-193 (“The Body Politic”) in Kowitz

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poem 44, 45, 46, 47 or 48.

Additional suggested readings in *American Poets* anthology: Crystal Williams – *In Search of Aunt Jemima* (428), Juan Delgado – *Chuparosa* (119), Khaled Mattawa – *History of My Face* (255), Kenneth Carroll – *Theory on Extinction* (81)

4/14 (M) Experimental Poems

- Read EXPERIMENTAL POEMS section in Reader
- Check out p. 102-110 (“Cut-Ups, Cross-Outs, and Ransom Notes”) and 137-145 (“Coils of Hardened Copper: The Modernist Revolution”) in Kowitz
- **PROSE POEM DUE!**

SOME EXERCISES: In Kowitz: Poem 22, 23, or 33.

4/21 (M) Intensive Workshop

- **POEM REVISION DUE!**

FINAL PORTFOLIOS DUE 4/30