





English (ENGL) 380

Writing Poetry (Revision 1)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites:

ENGL 211, ENGL 212, ENGL 353, and permission of the professor.

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

ENGL 380 is not available for challenge.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview



English 380: Writing Poetry focuses on expanding poetic technique through guided practice, close reading, regular use of a writer’s notebook, constructive interaction with peers, and informed instructor responses. With attention to weekly writing, reading, and revision, the course promotes learning to think and work like a poet. Students will find copious references to what various poets say about poetry and its creation, as well as engage in challenging technical examination of specific works. Balancing attention to the essential “small details” of the art, the course also opens up awareness of pertinent historical and cultural questions that enter into the discipline.

From initial groundwork exercises, including listening and reading activities, students build toward a final portfolio of carefully revised poems that explore various traditional and contemporary forms and approaches. Reminders throughout the course encourage openness to the pleasures of poetry, to letting go and trying new things. At the same time, without pushing unrealistically, the course aspires to help generate purposeful effort that is or will become worthy of publication. Increasing command of form and technique is pursued in a manner designed to nurture meaningful personal voice, style, and vision.

Outline


- Unit 1—Practising Basics: Sound, Image, Form, and Sense
- Unit 2—Adapting Traditional Forms
- Unit 3—Working with Free Verse and Experimentation
- Unit 4—Revision

Evaluation


To **receive credit**  for ENGL 380, you must complete six assignments and receive an overall course grade of **D (50 percent)** .


Activity	Weight
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Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	Pass/Fail
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	20%
Assignment 4	25%
Assignment 5	15%
Assignment 6	30%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

Materials

Braid, Kate, and Sandy Shreve, editors. *In Fine Form: A Contemporary Look at Canadian Form Poetry*. 2nd ed., Caitlin Press, 2016.  (Print)

Clark, Kevin. *The Mind's Eye: A Guide to Writing Poetry*. Pearson, 2008.  (Print)

Ioannou, Susan. *A Magical Clockwork: The Art of Writing the Poem*. Wordwrights Canada, 2000.  (Print)

Kinzie, Mary. *A Poet's Guide to Poetry*. 2nd. ed., UCP, 2013.  (Print)





Oliver, Mary. *A Poetry Handbook*. Mariner Books, 1994.  (Print)

Other Materials

All other materials for the course are available online through the English 380

home page. These include an ENGL 380 Course Information and an ENGL 380 Study Guide.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 1, May 29, 2018

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