Course Name: Introduction to Poetry
Course Number: HS 3045 01
Class Meets: R 6:30-9:00
Classroom Location: Main Building 416

Faculty's Name: Dr. John Pistelli
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MCAD Telephone Number, Academic Affairs: (612) 874-3058
Office Hours: W 4:30-6:30
Office Location: Main Building 308

Faculty Biography: John Pistelli holds a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Minnesota. His academic interests include modern and contemporary fiction, literary theory and aesthetics, the graphic novel, and creative writing. His non-fiction has appeared in Rain Taxi, Ragnarok, New Walk, and The Millions, while his short fiction has been published in Whole Beast Rag, Revolver, The Squawk Back, Winter Tangerine Review, and elsewhere. He is also the author of The Ecstasy of Michaela: a novella (Valhalla Press, 2012).

Course Description: In this hands-on class, students read the work and advice of contemporary poets, along with selected examples from the past, to hone the crafts of sound, the line, metaphor, voice, imagery, and revision in their own poems. Through guided exercises, students can deepen their understanding of the creative process. Class sessions are discussion-based. Students will complete reading notes and written exercises, as well as compile a portfolio.

Course Learning Outcomes:
• Examine select topics in poetry through examples and case studies
• Read, summarize, and explain substantively the work of contemporary poets
• Develop the ability to read and to write poetry, paying special attention to specific aspects of the form, such as sound, line, metaphor, voice, and imagery
• Demonstrate a deep understanding of the creative process
• Identify past, present, and future forms and trends in poetry

Methodology of Instruction:
Class sessions are discussion-based. Students will complete readings notes and written exercises, as well as compile a portfolio.

Required Textbooks, Readings and Websites:
Walt Whitman, Song of Myself
Eavan Boland and Mark Strand, eds., The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms

Library Reserve Information:
Books are on 2-hour loan at the library.

Materials and Tools list:
Laptop or tablet for participation in online reading or assignments and for preparing and submitting written work.

Blackboard: Access the Blackboard site for this course via the MCAD intranet homepage. We will use Blackboard for online responses, supplemental readings, and assignment submissions.

Email Usage: Email is used by college/administrative offices as the official means of communicating with the student body. Official college announcements regarding policy, classes, registration, deadlines, etc. are delivered via email. Students are expected to check their MCAD email frequently and are held responsible for all official information communicated to them via the email system. Misuse or misrepresentation of official communications by students will result in disciplinary action.

Attendance: Attendance in classes is mandatory. There are no officially excused absences. For classes that meet once a week, two absences will result in one full grade deduction. Any additional absences will result in the loss of one half of a letter grade. For classes that meet twice a week, four absences will result in one full grade deduction. Two additional absences will result in the loss of one half of a letter grade. Repeated tardiness will result in the loss of a letter grade.

Grading Policy: Grades at MCAD are based primarily on the quality of outcomes. Grades consider student' performance of assignments listed on each course syllabus, participation in class, magnitude of improvement, attendance, level of project difficulty, timeliness of project completion, compliance with class policies, and effort/dedication.
A - Excellent work, progress far beyond expectations of effort and outcomes, and full class participation.
B - Good work, completion of course requirements and preparedness for the more advanced study or next course in a sequence.
C - Average work, completion of course requirements and preparedness for the more advanced study or next course in a sequence.
D - Passing but below average work, some promise of improvement if the class were repeated.
F - Work not acceptable or not enough course requirements completed to receive a passing grade.
Plus and minus notations on letter grades indicate which side of the grade spectrum work and performance falls, whether above the assigned letter grade but short of the next higher one or short of the assigned letter grade and at risk of falling to the next lower one.

Grading Procedure / Criteria: Grading will be based on four areas: 1. 10% class participation (this includes being prepared for class, speaking in class, attending office hours, completing all other assignments); 2. 10% presentation (each student will, in a group of two, present on a poem or poet or poetry movement/form not assigned in the course; the group's choice must have my approval); 3. 50% weekly exercises (students will submit to their peers for workshop and to me for grading weekly exercises in poetry writing); 4. 30% final poetry project, including process (students will prepare a sequence or cycle of poems for a final project, a project that will also include revision, reflection, and workshopping). More detail about assignments will be provided as the course progresses.

Academic Deficiencies: MCAD notifies students of deficiencies in academic performance throughout the semester. Notices are placed in student mailboxes. Students are encouraged to contact the faculty immediately and take steps to remedy the deficiency. If a student has two or more deficiencies at mid-semester the student will be contacted by the Dean of Student Affairs. A subsequent meeting will be scheduled to help the student analyze the problem and make realistic plans to remedy the situation and succeed in school.

Midterm Grade Notification: At the midterm I will provide your grade to date.

Assignments / Deliverables:
Weekly writing exercises, workshop participation, presentation and report, final poetry project.

Course Calendar:
09/04

Introduction to the Course

READING
• Ezra Pound, "In a Station of the Metro"

PART 1. SONGS OF SELF, SOCIETY, AND THE NATURAL WORLD

09/11

READING
• Walt Whitman, Song of Myself

09/18

READING
• Walt Whitman, Song of Myself
DUE
• Whitman exercise

PART 2. FORMS

09/25

READING
• Making of a Poem (MP): Meter, Ballad, Villanelle

10/02

READING
• MP: Sonnet
DUE
• Ballad or villanelle exercise

10/09

READING
• MP: Stanza
DUE
• Sonnet exercise

10/16

READING
• MP: Blank Verse
DUE
• Stanza exercise

10/23

READING
• MP: Free Verse
DUE
• Blank verse exercise

PART 3. GENRES

10/30

READING
• MP: Pastoral
DUE
• Free verse exercise

11/06

READING
• MP: Ode
DUE

- • Pastoral exercise

11/13

READING
- • MP: Elegy
DUE
- • Ode exercise

11/20

READING
- • MP: Open Forms
DUE
- • Elegy exercise

11/27

NO CLASS

PART 4. POETRY PRESENTATIONS

12/04

DUE
- • Presentations
- • Final poetry project draft

12/11

DUE
- • Presentations

12/18

DUE
- • Poem for final reading
- • Final poetry project

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THE LEARNING CENTER: The Learning Center provides interdisciplinary support for all MCAD students, including face-to-face and online tutoring, an online writing and learning lab (OWLL), small and large group workshops and in-class presentations, as well as academic accommodation services for students with disabilities. The Learning Center works with students to make them better learners and prioritizes equal access and opportunity for all students. Tutoring areas include writing, software and technical skills, time management, and study skills. For more information on the Learning Center's Hours, instructions for how to make an appointment, and access to the MCAD OWLL, visit learningcenter.mcad.edu or call (612) 874-3671.

LYNDA.COM: Students can access a wide variety of online tutorials at Lynda.com using their MCAD login information: https://intranet.mcad.edu/modules/lynda/

COURSE EVALUATIONS: Course evaluations are an integral part of MCAD curriculum development. Student feedback on courses are instrumental in creating a vibrant, informed, and robust learning community at MCAD. For these, and many other reasons, students are encouraged at the end of the semester to provide extensive feedback on course evaluations.

CELL PHONE POLICY (optional): Cell phones should be put on mute or vibrate during class. Calls can be made during breaks, as well as before or after class.

CREDIT HOUR DEFINITION: In lecture/discussion courses requiring outside preparation, 1 hour of credit represents 50 minutes contact time each week in class, and 2 hours of work outside of class. Therefore, a 3-credit lecture course requires 2.5 hours in class per week and approximately 6 hours outside of class.

In studio/laboratory courses, 1 hour of credit requires a minimum of 1.5 hours contact hours each week in class and approximately 1.5 hours of work outside of class. Therefore, a 3-credit studio course represents a minimum of 4.5 contact hours in class and approximately 4.5 hours of work outside of class per week.

In online courses, 1 hour of credit requires approximately 3 hours of work per week for all activities (i.e., reading, viewing, making, scanning, responding to discussion threads, collaborating, etc.). Therefore, a 3-credit online course requires approximately 9 hours per week to complete the necessary activities.

ATTENDANCE (ONLINE COURSES): Registration for an online course presupposes that the student will attend/fully participate in all online activities. Each student is responsible for meeting all course requirements.

CLASSROOM LAPTOP USAGE POLICY: Participation in a classroom community has many benefits, but students will also find that along with those benefits come responsibilities:
+ Students are responsible for bringing laptops to class when scheduled to do so.
+ Student laptops should be in good working condition. If a student is experiencing problems with a laptop, it is the student's responsibility to go to Computer Support for help: https://intranet.mcad.edu/modules/css/?css=1. Technical difficulties such a problems printing, uploading, saving, or retrieving files do not excuse late or missing work.

+ During classroom discussion, demonstration, or lecture, students should not be connected to network resources unless students are specifically instructed to do so.

+ Chatting, using social media, or emailing is no more acceptable than talking on a cell phone during class time. Non-class related use of a laptop during class time, including working on homework for other courses, may result in restriction of laptop use or a grade penalty.

+ Unless otherwise indicated, students should never use headphones during class time.

+ Students should always store copies of files in two backup locations. Students should never store the only copy of a paper/project on the student server space in case the server is down, and students are unable to access the paper/project.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY: Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in MCAD courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action.

The MCAD Student Handbook defines academic dishonesty as follows: Submission of false records of academic achievement; cheating on assignments or examinations; altering, forging or misusing a College academic record, document or funds; taking, acquiring or using test materials without faculty permission; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records to obtain grades, honors, awards or professional endorsement in a dishonest manner; plagiarizing.

+ Plagiarizing: Quoting uncited materials, visual or written; presenting the work of others as your own; using work of other MCAD students without their express permission.

+ Using the Same Work in Different Courses: Students may not submit the same work for more than one class without the knowledge and consent of all faculty.

+ Consequences for plagiarizing and double submissions may include failing the assignment or the course, or academic probation.

Within this course, a student who is responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to an including an "F" for the course. If students have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, they should consult with their professor.

Using the Same Assignment in Different Courses: Studio projects are assigned and assessed according to the specific learning objectives for each course. Occasionally students may be assigned a project in one course that shares many of the learning objectives of an assignment given in a different course. While turning in the same assignment for two courses is not encouraged, students who wish to do so are required to first notify the faculty member of each course and get permission. Faculty may assign additional requirements. Failure to notify faculty can result in failure of the assignments in both courses.

Accessibility and Equal Access: Persons with disabilities have a right to equal opportunity as prescribed by law. MCAD is responsible for creating a barrier-free environment while empowering students to grow toward independence and self-assertion. It is the individual student's responsibility to make their needs known and request accommodation. First-time disclosures must be made via appointment with the Learning Center or via our Disability

Disclosure Form. For more information, visit learningcenter.mcad.edu or call (612) 874-3671.

ARCHIVING YOUR WORK: All students must turn in images of their work from each class every semester. The image format should follow MCAD archiving standards, which are found at:
http://kb.mcad.edu/index.php?category=64

Images should be accompanied by a Word document containing relevant information, found at:
http://kb.mcad.edu/index.php?article=166 - Text Listing

Intranet.MCAD.edu
MCAD Knowledgebase
Computer support
Archiving Standards for Student work