CW209-30 The Practice of Poetry

26/27

Department
SCAPVC - Warwick Writing Programme
Level
Undergraduate Level 2
Module leader
David Morley
Credit value
30
Module duration
18 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The Practice of Poetry is a flagship module of the Warwick Writing Programme and, for over two decades, has been instrumental in launching the careers of poets and publishers working at the forefront of contemporary literature. Many graduates have publicly credited the module as the turning point that led them to a life in poetry, and a remarkable number have gone on to achieve national and international recognition as poets, performers and editors. Alumni have won major awards, including the Eric Gregory Award, the Costa Poetry Prize, the Manchester Poetry Competition, and multiple Poetry Book Society Recommendations. Their work has been published by leading presses such as Bloodaxe, Carcanet, Seren, Salt, and Penned in the Margins. Recent changes to the module have grown out of conversations not only with current students but also with distinguished alumni, several of whom have returned to speak candidly with undergraduates about the lasting impact of the course on their professional and creative lives.

Module web page

Module aims

The module introduces students to a wide spectrum of traditional and experimental approaches to poetry. Through workshop-based learning, students are invited not only to read and write poems but to explore the techniques that both extend and interrogate their developing voice as poets.

Sessions include close engagement with formal structures as well as opportunities to push the boundaries of the art through spoken word, conceptual writing, and critical-creative reviewing. Emphasis is placed on learning as a collaborative, embodied, and imaginative event—rooted in real-world creative practice and collective exchange. These aims are closely aligned with the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Creative Writing (2024).

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

TERM 1
Week 1 Introduction
Week 2. Ghazal
Week 3. Song
Week 4. Sonnet
Week 5. Pantoum
Week 6. Writing Week.
Week 7. Sestina
Week 8. Villanelle
Week 9. Terza Rima and Renga
Week 10. Golden Shovel
TERM 2
Week 11. Essay
Week 12. Translation
Week 13. Asemic and Erasure Poetry
Week 14. Ecphrasis
Week 15. Concept Poetry
Week 16. Writing Week.
Week 17. Guerrilla Poetry
Week 18. Free Verse
Week 19. Workshops
Week 20. Workshops

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- By the end of this module the student should be able to work in several forms of poetry and created poems using a variety of media.
- By the end of this module the student should be able to comprehend the working practices of some contemporary poets writing in English, and how their work may be used as models for the student's own practice.
- By the end of this module the student should be able to apply some knowledge of the power and practice of imagination in poetic creation.
- By the end of this module the student should be able to work in metred and unmetred verse using a variety of rhyme strategies.

- By the end of this module the student should be able to appreciate the diversity of contemporary verse strategies, including hybrid poetries, spoken word performance and conceptual art derived from poetic praxis.
- By the end of this module the student should be able to possess some practical understanding of their own poetics, and that of other poets, with regard to poetry.
- By the end of this module the student should be able possess a realistic knowledge of the marketplace for poetry.

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Specific reading list for the module

Subject specific skills

By the end of this module the student should be able to:
Work in several forms of poetry and created poems using a variety of media.
Comprehend the working practices of some contemporary poets writing in English, and how their work may be used as models for the student's own practice.
Apply some knowledge of the power and practice of imagination in poetic creation.
Work in metred and unmetred verse using a variety of rhyme strategies.

Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
External visits	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	246 hours (82%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Reading & research

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A4

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Filmed Spoken Word Performance or Concept	20%		No
A recording of a spoken word performance by the student of no less than 10 minutes; OR a piece of poetry-derived conceptual art with a 300-word commentary on its aims and processes,.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Portfolio Poetry portfolio	60%		No
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Essay Assessed literary essay	20%		No
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on Tabula, workshops, and face-to-face feedback during feedback hours in weeks 1-20.

Availability

Pre-requisites

Students from other SCAPVC units OR university departments who have not taken CW101 are welcome to enrol, provided they can demonstrate some experience in the practice of poetry. Interested students are asked to contact the module leader in advance via SCAPVCenquiries@warwick.ac.uk.

Students from other units or departments are welcome to enrol from either their second or third year.

To take this module, you must have passed:

- All of
  - CW101-30 Modes of Writing: An Introduction

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing