

# UC San Diego

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## EXTENSION

**Course Name:** Forms of Poetry

### **Instructor Information**

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### **Course Information**

#### **Course Description (Goals and Objectives)**

Amy Lowell wrote, "No one expects a man to make a chair without first learning how, but there is a popular impression that the poet is born, not made, and that his verses burst from his overflowing heart of themselves. As a matter of fact, the poet must learn his trade in the same manner, and with the same painstaking care, as the cabinet-maker."

Let's look at poetry from a designer's perspective. As a designer of poetry, we are charged with creating works of beauty that sometimes fall within certain parameters such as: What does this "space" need? What do I want to "say" here? What are my materials? In this course, students will address the design qualities of a poem by experimenting with forms like the sonnet, ballad, ode, cento, chant, elegia, haiku, and villanelle.

#### **Course Purpose and Prerequisites**

The course has no prerequisites. The purpose of the course is to explore poetic form while also maintaining an eye toward poetic language. Instead of teaching all forms, we'll immerse ourselves in one form a week so that we can take our time to understand. If this isn't your first time taking the course, you should keep an eye out for alternative assignments so that the exercises don't get stale.

#### **Course Goal and Objectives**

The goal of this course is to give students a sampling of poetic forms and to practice

how to shape their own words into form.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify different formal structures like sonnet, ballad, haiku, villanelle, etc.
- Write in form
- Play with meter, rhyme, and refrain
- Employ different poetic devices like alliteration, consonance, assonance, etc.
- Give feedback to fellow students
- Revise based on feedback
- Tell a story through narrative
- Create a final collection (or chapbook) of their original work

## Course Materials and Textbooks

A notebook and a pen.

A book of poetry by a single author. Your choice.

## Course Schedule

Week 1 - Introduction to Poetic Forms and Meaning & Form: The Sonnet

Week 2 - Music & Form: The Ballad

Week 3 - Image & Form: The Haiku

Week 4 - Myth, Legend, Pop Culture & Form: The Villanelle

Week 5 - Dreams & Free Verse: A Form Without Form

Week 6 - Chapbook: A Form Project; Ode

## Grading Criteria

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Discussion Board Participation: 25%

Assignments 50 %

Final Project 25%

TOTAL 100%

## Grading Policies

About Discussion Board Participation - A regular presence is expected in blackboard discussions and substantial contributions about class topics and discussion questions. What this means, essentially, is coming into blackboard regularly (lots more than once a week) and discussing what is relevant to the class. So what is contribution/participation? Here are some ideas:

- start a discussion on blackboard (add a thread)
- respond thoughtfully to a topic
- provide links and resources related to the topic
- pose a thought-provoking question related to the topic
- provide pros and cons
- thoughtfully rebut another person's comments
- make you postings in a timely manner
- take a leadership role for weekly postings

This course can be taken as part of the Creative Writing certificate. In order for the class to count towards your certificate it must be taken for a letter grade or as pass/no pass. Classes that are taken as NFC cannot count towards a certificate. You can change your grading option any time BEFORE the last day of class through [My Extension](#).

In grading, quantity and quality are considered. Regular contributions that add to the knowledge base of other students, links to additional resources, and providing substantive food for thought get points. If you don't know a lot (yet!) about the topics, feel free to share some questions to others and/or search the Internet and share what you find with the class.

Think about the logic behind this. We can sometimes learn just as much from the person sitting next to you (even in the virtual classroom) as you can from the instructor. We are all here to learn.

Note: Discussion Board participation is 30% of your grade.