

Point Loma Nazarene University
 Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages
Poetry Workshop
WRI 6021 (3 units)

**“Walk the Line”:
 The Art of Lines & Line Breaks**

Section: 1
Time: M, 7:00-9:45 p.m.

Spring 2024
Location: Bond Lounge

Instructor: Dr. Katie Manning, kmanning@pointloma.edu
 Phone: 619-849-2432
 Office: Bond 124
 Office Hours: TR, 9:00-10:30 a.m., and other times by appointment
 Course Website: <https://canvas.pointloma.edu>

Catalog Entry: Advanced instruction and guided workshop in writing poetry. Attention is also given to methodology in teaching poetry writing and to finding publication.

Course Description: This graduate-level poetry workshop will focus on the art of the line, giving special attention to the art of line breaks in free verse and to the boundary between poetry and prose. We will read and discuss craft writing as well as published poetry collections (with occasional visits from the authors!). You will write and revise poems throughout the semester, and we will spend a good amount of time in workshop, discussing new poems by writers in our class and giving each writer feedback for revision.

Required Materials

Davis, Nicelle. *The Language of Fractions*. Moon Tide Press, 2023. 978-1957799131.
 Hayes, Terrance. *Watch Your Language*. Penguin Random House, 2023. 9780143137733.
 Longenbach, James. *The Art of the Poetic Line*. Graywolf Press, 2007. 978-1555974886.
 Muschenetz, Jane. *All the Bad Girls Wear Russian Accents*. Kelsay Books, 2023. 978-1639802531
 Simonovis, Leonora. *Study of the Raft*. University Press of Colorado, 2021. 978-1-885635-79-2.
 More readings and resources will be posted on Canvas and available online.
 Self-selected resources.
 Things writers need: laptop/tablet, pen/pencil, paper/journal, etc.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete WRI 5021/6021 will be able to:

1. identify advanced aspects of theory, style, and structure in works of poetry;
2. analyze poetry written by professionals and peers to determine authors' writing techniques in relationship to target audiences and genre conventions;
3. employ advanced research techniques as necessary to meet the demands of poetic craft and content;

4. craft poems using advanced techniques specific to genre to create descriptive and evocative language;
5. apply advanced workshop techniques for constructive criticism of peers and in turn take criticism and use it to improve their own work;
6. format texts in a genre-appropriate and professional manner for submission to workshop and publication;
7. present written work to live audiences, demonstrating advanced strategies for audience engagement and oral communication.

CLASS POLICIES

Grade Distribution: In order to receive credit for the course, all of the following must be completed.

Attendance & Discussions (inc. AWP mini-pres)	20%
Craft Talk	10%
Poems	20%
Workshops	20%
Final Portfolio	20%
Final Reading	10%
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<i>Total</i>	100%

A = Phenomenal work that far exceeds the minimum requirements of the assignment; excellent logic, structure, and organization; virtually no grammar and punctuation errors.

B = Good work that exceeds the minimum requirements of the assignment; no major problems with logic, structure, and organization; very few grammar and punctuation errors.

C = Average work that meets the minimum requirements of the assignment; may have minor problems with logic, structure, and organization; may have some grammar and punctuation errors.

D = Poor work that does not fully meet the minimum requirements of the assignment; may have some problems with logic, structure, and organization; grammar and punctuation errors may hinder meaning.

F = Poor work that does not fulfill the assignment; may have serious problems with logic, structure, and organization; grammar and punctuation errors may obscure meaning.

Grading Scale & Definitions:

A: 93-100%	B-: 80-82	D+: 67-69
A-: 90-92	C+: 77-79	D: 63-66
B+: 87-89	C: 73-76	D-: 60-62
B: 83-86	C-: 70-72	F: below 60

Attendance & Participation: Because we meet once a week and this course's work is heavily based on collaboration, attendance and participation are enormously important. Please do all that you can to be present and on time. We will take a break together mid-class.

According to PLNU's policy: if a student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Craft Talk: On your assigned day, please come to class prepared to teach us about an element of poetic craft. (You'll sign up for a topic in advance). Your talk will include both a craft lesson and a writing exercise, and the entire presentation (including the exercise) should run between 10-15 minutes. A little practice in advance goes a long way. This presentation should be concise, well-prepared, and *engaging*. Use of media is welcome but not required.

Post-AWP Mini-Presentation: The Monday after the AWP Conference, you will share something you gleaned from an AWP panel or from your alternative assignment. This presentation need not be formal, but it should be concise (think 2-3 minutes) and *engaging*. Use of media is welcome but not required. This will be part of your A&D grade.

Poems: You will turn in several early drafts of poems. You will get some prompts in class from me and from each other to help you get ideas, but these will ultimately be self-assigned. Please follow the Canvas modules closely and submit pieces on the day they are due. These early drafts need not be masterpieces, but they should not be sloppy. It should be clear that you worked on them.

Workshops: We will do on-the-spot workshops as a whole class throughout the semester. Each week, you will post your poem for workshop on Canvas (please use .doc file format) the Friday before class. The poems will be available for you to read before class if you wish, but we will be reading them and discussing them together during class time, so preparation beforehand is not required. For each workshop, you will be responsible for bringing hard copies of your own poem equal to the number of people in the room so that we can mark them up together as we talk. During workshops, we will thoroughly discuss the writing to give the authors a chance to see how readers are experiencing their work and to give some feedback for revision. Your workshop grade will be based on both your verbal participation and active written comments.

Final Portfolio: You will draft 10 new poems throughout the semester. Your final portfolio should include a brief (1-2 page) introduction to your work that especially reflects on your engagement with the concept of "the line," 10 well-revised poems, and a brief statement (footnote or endnote) for *each* poem on why/how you began, revised, and settled it.

Paper Format: All assignments, unless otherwise instructed, must be typed, in 12-point Times or Arial font, with one-inch margins. Poems should usually be single spaced or spaced according to the design of the author. Prose should be double spaced and include a word count in the upper right corner. Please submit electronic copies in the appropriate place on Canvas as instructed for each assignment.

Canvas: A copy of this syllabus and assignments for our course are online at <https://canvas.pointloma.edu>. You can access these course materials using your PLNU username and password.

PLNU Email: Your PLNU email account should be checked often. This is the way that I will most frequently communicate with you outside of class, and it's also the way the university distributes important information.

Public Discourse: Much of the work we will do in this class is cooperative. You should think of all your writing and speaking for and in class as public, not private, discourse. By continuing in this class, you acknowledge that your work will be viewed by others.

This syllabus is a contract. If you continue in this course, then you agree to comply with the class policies as stated here.

Lesson Plans – Tentative Schedule Spring 2024

Week 1 Jan 8	Welcome! Introductions Discuss course Read “The Art and Craft of Writing Good Poetry” What is craft? Foundational terms. Share some favorite poems.
Week 2 Jan 15	NO CLASS - MLK Day Opening Survey Craft Talk Sign-up
Week 3 Jan 22	Read Hayes Poem 1 (due Jan 18) Discussion Workshop
Week 4 Jan 29	Read Longenbach 1 Poem 2 (due Jan 26) Craft Talks 1 & 2 Discussion Workshop
Week 5 Feb 5	AWP Conference! - Attend at least one panel on poetry craft (If not attending AWP, complete alternative session on Canvas.)

Week 6 Feb 12	Read Paulette Jiles's poem Read review of Jiles's work Poem 3 (due Feb 9) Post-AWP mini-presentations Workshop
Week 7 Feb 19	Poem 4 (due Feb 16) The Writer's Symposium will take the place of class this week, especially our poetry workshop with Paulette Jiles on Tuesday afternoon!
Week 8 Feb 26	Read Simonovis Poem 5 (due Feb 23) Leo's visit Workshop
<i>Mar 4</i>	<i>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK!</i>
Week 9 Mar 11	Read Longenbach II Poem 6 (due Mar 1) Craft Talks 3 & 4 Discussion Workshop
Week 10 Mar 18	Read Davis Poem 7 (due Mar 15) Nicelle's visit Workshop
Week 11 Mar 25	Read Longenbach III Poem 8 (due Mar 22) Craft Talks 5 & 6 Discussion Workshop
Week 12 Apr 1	NO CLASS - Easter Monday

Week 13 Apr 8	Read Muschenetz Poem 9 (due Apr 5) Jane's visit Workshop
Week 14 Apr 15	Poem 10 (due Apr 12) Asynchronous Workshop *Anne Lamott's Reading at PLNU is scheduled during our class time.
Week 15 Apr 22	Master Discussion Final Workshop
Week 16 Apr 29	Final Portfolio FINAL READING

Important Statements & Policies

PLNU Mission Statement

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Note: For our class's purposes, writing is collaborative, and writers share and borrow from each other all the time. There are ways to do this that are acceptable (such as taking suggestions from professors and peers), but there are also ways to use other people's ideas or words in a way that is considered plagiarism (such as passing off somebody else's work as your own). We will discuss this further in class.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

Most publications do not currently allow use of AI in submitted works. Most of the current AI tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) encourage people to outsource deep thinking and critical thought in favor of quick idea generation and bland text, and the results are too often factually incorrect anyway. Because of this, and due to the fact that using ideas and language that are not your own is a form of plagiarism, these AI tools are not permitted for our class assignments. If you've got an incredibly compelling reason to use one, please seek approval in advance from me and cite the AI tool appropriately. Any unapproved usage of these tools will be treated as plagiarism. Putting another person's writing into an AI tool (a.k.a. handing over

another person's intellectual property without permission) is a serious offense and will result in an F in this course.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

Center for Enriching Relationships

PLNU graduate students are able to receive *free* face-to-face and telehealth counseling services through the Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling program (MACC). This service is provided by supervised therapists-in-training at the Center for Enriching Relationships. To contact the Center for Enriching Relationships, please call 619-858-3105 or visit <https://www.enrichingrelationships.org/plnu-macc> to submit an online request. Your inquiry is confidential. Please note that once the form is submitted it may take up to two days to process and respond to your request.

If you need emergency assistance, please call 911 or the Access and Crisis Line at (888) 724-7240.