Course Description
In 1960, W.D. Snodgrass won the Pulitzer Prize for *Heart’s Needle* and Robert Lowell won the National Book Award for *Life Studies*. That same year saw the publication of the now famous poetry anthology *The New American Poetry 1945-1960*, edited by Donald Allen.


In this version of ENGL 618, we’ll consider “the year in poetry,” from 1960 until about 1980.

Our craft focus this time around will be syntax. Or underlying theme will be ambition. We’ll also read two collections from our most recent year in poetry—2012.

Texts

Plus whatever reading you’ll need to do to report to the class on your “year(s) in poetry.”

Assignments/Expectations
- approximately 10 poems for workshop (this is a large workshop; we’ll need to see what’s do-able)
- two succinct presentations of a “year in poetry”—with handouts and an electronic version sent to me
- three brief but stunning essays: (1) analysis of a poem’s syntax, (2) response to Graham & Revell (3) response to *Swallowing the Sea*
- (enthusiastic & thoughtful) participation in the workshop at West Preston Middle School
- (thoughtful & enthusiastic) participation in our workshop and in the discussion of the books
- final project: to be determined...
**Evaluation**
You’ll be evaluated on your prose, your poetry, and your overall contributions to creating a supportive atmosphere for the study of the craft of writing.

**Attendance Policy**
I take attendance seriously, don’t you? This is a graduate course; this is workshop; you won’t want to be absent. But, if for some unavoidable reason you must be, you should let me know, ahead of time. I do grade down for absences and tardiness. And, seriously, more than one absence in a grad class is unacceptable. We only meet once a week. Be here, on time, ready to participate.

**Attendance at Readings and other Creative Writing Events**
Hearing writers read is fun; bringing writers to campus is expensive. Plan to attend all department-sponsored readings. These events are put on by us for you, and as such they’re part of the experience of getting an MFA here.

**Social Justice**
WVU is committed to social justice, as am I. That means you can expect a learning environment that is constructive, based on mutual respect and non-discrimination. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Questions?**
Ask me. And of course you are welcome to come to my office, or email me, to discuss your work, publication, teaching, anything. That said, I also encourage you to visit the Carruth Center if you’re having difficulties that go beyond the scope of my abilities. Figuring out how to write is good; figuring out how to live is better, and crucial.

**Weekly Schedule** *(subject to change)*

**Week 1: January 15**
Course introduction
The year in poetry: 1960
Distribute poems
For next week: read and comment on all poems
For next week: Voigt to page 61

**Week 2: January 22**
Workshop
Voigt
For next week: preparing for workshop: from here on out...
For next week: read Voigt 63-97

*Monday, January 28: reading: Mark Brazaitis and Amanda Cobb, 7:30 p.m.*
*Gold Ballroom*
Week 3: January 29
Workshop
Voigt
For next week: “The Year in Poetry” presentations begin
For next week: Voigt: 99-144

Week 4: February 5
Workshop
Voigt
1961: Melissa
1962: Ben
1963: Rebecca
1964: Jessica

Week 5: February 12
Workshop
Discuss syntax essay....
1965: Sara
1966: Xin Tian
1967: Hannah
1968: Patric

Tuesday, February 12, Appalachian Prison Book Project benefit reading, w/ Jim Harms, Katie Fallon, Tony Christini & more, 7:30 p.m., 130 Colson Hall

Week 6: February 19
Workshop
For next week: syntax essay due (discuss a poem from one of your years in poetry)
1969: Morgan
1970: Connie
1971: Tatiana
1972: Christina

Week 7: February 26
Workshop
Syntax essay due
1973: Sadie
1974: Jaci
1975: Melissa
1976: Ben

Tuesday, February 26: reading: Kevin Oderman & Jessie Van Eerden, 7:30 p.m., Robinson Reading Room
**Week 8: March 5**
Workshop  
Prepping for our workshop in Preston County  
1977: Rebecca  
1978: Jessica  
1979: Sara  
1980: Xin Tian

*Tuesday, March 5: reading: Valerie Boyd, 7:30 p.m., Robinson Reading Room*

*Friday, March 8: Writing Contest Deadline*

**AWP in Boston: March 7-10**

**Week 9: March 12**
Workshop  
More prep for Preston...  
1981: Hannah  
1982: Patric  
1983: Morgan  
1984: Connie

*March 13 &14: Workshop in Preston County*

**Week 10: March 19**
Workshop  
1985: Tatiana  
1986: Christina  
1987: Sadie  
1988: Jaci  
For next class: read Graham & Revell  
For next class: write an elegant essay in response to Graham & Revell

*Wednesday, March 20: reading: Mary Ann Samyn, 7:30 p.m., 130 Colson Hall*

**Spring Break**

**Week 11: April 2**
Workshop  
Graham & Revell  
**Essay in response to Graham & Revell due**

**Week 12: April 9**
Workshop  
For next week: read Upton
Week 13: April 16
Workshop
Upton
For next week: finish Upton
For next week: write an elegant essay in response to Upton

  *Wednesday, April 17: Department Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Gold Ballroom*

  *Thursday, April 18: ENGL 418 Capstone Reading, 11:30 a.m., 130 Colson Hall*

  *Thursday, April 18: Calliope reading, 7:30 p.m., 130 Colson Hall*

Week 14: April 23
Workshop
Upton
**Essay in response to Upton due**

  *Thursday, April 25: MFA Reading, 7:30 p.m., Rhododendron Room*

Week 15: April 30
Workshop.
Final project due date tba.

Questions? Email me: maryann.samyn@mail.wvu.edu