ENG 6043, CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY
Fall 2011
Wendy Barker
Office: MB 2.472, Office Hours: R 3:00-4:00 p.m. and by appointment
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This course satisfies requirements for three of twelve semester credit hours of electives for an M.A. degree in English. It also satisfies requirements for three of the twelve semester credit hours required for a student to receive certification in creative writing.

The course will offer an opportunity to gain fluency and proficiency in writing original poetry, as well as in critiquing and editing the poems of others.

All students will observe UTSA’s Honor Code:
www.utsa.edu/about/creed/honorcode.html

Required Texts:
Natasha Trethewey  Domestic Work
Terrance Hayes  Lighthead
Martín Espada  A Mayan Astronomer in Hell’s Kitchen
Kimiko Hahn  Toxic Flora
Chana Bloch  Blood Honey
Jackie Sheeler  Earthquake Came to Harlem
Elaine Equi  Ripple Effect
Kevin Clark  Self-Portrait With Expletives
Wendy Barker  Poems’ Progress
Kevin Clark  The Mind’s Eye

Requirements:
- Attendance, participation, weekly poem (with enough clear printed copies for everyone).
- Editorial commitment and development.
- Attendance at a minimum of two poetry readings in San Antonio (you will write a paragraph or two describing your reaction to each event, due shortly after the event).
- Brief (1-2 page) reviews of the collections listed above due the week we discuss the work.
- A portfolio, due at the semester’s end, which will include:
  1. Copies of the brief (one paragraph) reactions to at least two local poetry readings.
  2. Copies of the reviews of the collections you have turned in during the semester.
  3. 8-10 revisions of poems written during the semester (you will also include the original drafts we discussed in the workshop).
  4. An informal essay discussing which poets’ works and which workshop experiences most influenced your own poems and helped you develop during the semester. Here you can also evaluate what sort of editorial help in the workshop you found most beneficial.
  5. Proof of submission of poems to at least two journals and/or contests
Procedure:
I will give a (flexible) assignment every week based on that week’s assigned readings. Everyone will bring to class enough copies for all members of the workshop. After we discuss the assigned reading for the week, each poet will read his or her poem aloud, sit back, and remain silent while we discuss the poem, commenting first on its effect, and then noting the poem’s use of image, structure, diction, metaphoricity, sound, image, rhythm, and other poetic devices. We will make suggestions for revision. The poet will take careful notes of our comments.

During the week, each student will make written comments on any 3 poems by other students. Each student will then make one copy of each of these, and, at the next class meeting, return the originals to the writer, and give the copies to me. We should make sure that everyone comments on different writers each week.

Everyone will also write a 1-2 page printed informal response to the week’s reading.

Note: Though attendance is essential, if you are really sick, stay home!! Please alert me if for any reason you will not be coming to the workshop.

Grades:
Final grades will be figured according to these percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, participation, weekly responses</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>50%</td>
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</tbody>
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Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Introduction to course and writing exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>Barker, Poems’ Progress</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Clark, The Mind’s Eye (this week and all semester)*</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Tretheway, Domestic Work</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Bloch, Blood Honey</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Espada, A Mayan Astronomer in Hell’s Kitchen</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>Sheeler, Earthquake Came to Harlem</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Equi, Ripple Effect</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Visiting poet, Catherine Bowman</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Clark, Self-Portrait With Expletives</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Meet in small groups with revisions</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Hayes, Lighthead</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Hahn, Toxic Flora</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Revisions</td>
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*Students will read selections of their choice from The Mind’s Eye each week in addition to the collections of poetry assigned weekly.
Readings and Literary Events:

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m.  
The Twig  
200 Grayson, Ste. 124  
Natalia Treviño and WB, poetry reading

Friday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Harris Room, UCIII 2.212  
***Bruce Machart, Novelist

Oct. 5, 7, 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Recital Hall, Arts Bldg.  
Actors from the London Stage, The Tempest

Friday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.  
University Room, BB 2.06.04  
***Catherine Bowman, Poet

Friday, Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Place TBA  
Name that Author  
Organized by Dr. Steven G. Kellman

Nov. 11, 12, 7 p.m.  
BV Theater, DT Campus  
Department of English Acting Troupe, Richard III