

The UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM presents

THE VIRTUAL POETRY SEMINARS

SUMMER EDITION

May 20, 2013 - July 1, 2013

The University of Iowa's International Writing Program is proud to present two online, seven-week poetry writing courses this May. The Advanced Poetry Seminar is for strong, emerging writers, while the Poetry Masterclass is for published writers. Each course will include seven live online sessions and will be conducted via virtual classroom software. The only technical requirements are a computer, a stable internet connection, and a headset. **The course is free of charge and all sessions will be conducted in English.**

ADVANCED POETRY SEMINAR

COURSE DESCRIPTION "The purpose of poetry is to remind us / how difficult it is to remain just one person, / for our house is open, there are no keys in the doors, / and invisible guests come in and out at will." – Czeslaw Milosz, "Ars Poetica"

In this course, we'll greet the many "invisible guests" who populate the houses of our poems and ourselves. We'll have conversations with them. We'll pit them against one another in fierce debates. We'll play wild Charades with them. We'll wonder if they all can get along at our party. Readings for the course will focus on the modern and contemporary, but may include pop-in visits by the likes of Sappho, Rumi, Bashō, Dickinson, and others. Nearer poets may include Inger Christensen, Jorie Graham, Tomas Tranströmer, Simon Armitage, Wisława Szymborska, James Dickey, and Lucille Clifton. Weekly writing prompts will exercise students' engagement with the poets and poetries at hand, and written feedback will mark their progress.

ELIGIBILITY Since this course is offered entirely online, anyone with a reliable internet connection is encouraged to apply, regardless of where you live. The course is designed for advanced writers with an active commitment to reading poetry and refining their craft, though no previous experience is required. Unpublished poets and applicants with a limited publication history are welcome to apply. The course will be limited to fifteen writers by application only. International writers are encouraged to apply.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR Micah Bateman is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a recipient of the Poetry Society of America's Lyric Poetry Award. His work has been shortlisted for Salt Publishing's Crashaw Prize and appears in the *Boston Review*, *Cutbank*, *Denver Quarterly*, *New York Quarterly*, and *Verse*, among others. He has taught poetry and literature courses at the University of Iowa as a workshop student and as a Postgraduate Provost's Fellow in Poetry. He is currently the editor of PetriPress.org, an online poetry journal.

POETRY MASTERCLASS

COURSE DESCRIPTION Once you've written the first draft of a poem, what happens next? In this poetry workshop, we will study diverse examples of radical revision, ranging from Walt Whitman's obsessive reconsiderations of *Leaves of Grass* to Elizabeth Bishop's drafts of "One Art." Additionally, we will expand the definition of revision to include alternative editing strategies culled from the likes of Frank O'Hara, Robert Hass, Lyn Hejinian, and Srikanth Reddy. We will actively use workshop participants' poems as generators for new writing. As each drafting of a piece is an opportunity to rethink its destination, the class will forego mere tinkering in an effort to offer each work presented for workshop profound opportunities to transform its very strategies, meanings, and intentions. Deeply and generously inhabiting one another's work, participants will be encouraged to offer inspired exercises that challenge one another's visions. With an open mind, we will embrace all kinds of revision exercises, including chance operations, pointed research assignments, the investigation of outtakes and omissions, formal challenges, sonic dares, and all uppings of the poetic ante that kindle the reinvigoration of the creative act. We will write new work each week.

ELIGIBILITY This course is designed for writers with a longstanding, significant publication history from nationally recognized small presses or magazines. This course is ideal for poets with at least one published collection. Like the Advanced Poetry Seminar, this course is entirely online, so anyone with a reliable internet connection is encouraged to apply. Fifteen writers will be selected to participate from the U.S. and abroad.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR Nick Twemlow is a poet and filmmaker from Topeka, Kansas and a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. In 2013, his poetry collection *Palm Trees* (Green Lantern Press) received the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award. In addition to writing poetry, Twemlow is an accomplished filmmaker and a 2011 recipient of a Princess Grace Honorarium in Filmmaking. His films have been shown at a number of festivals, including Tribeca, South by Southwest, and Slam Dance. He is currently a Senior Editor of *The Iowa Review* and a co-editor of Canarium Books, a small press publisher of contemporary poetry.

TO APPLY The application process for the Advanced Poetry Seminar and the Poetry Masterclass is the same, however, it's important to **indicate which class you are applying for in the subject line of your emailed submission.** To apply, please submit the following to iwppapplications@gmail.com by **May 8, 2013**:

- Resume
- Statement of purpose
- Writing sample (please limit your submission to five pages of poems)

QUESTIONS? Please direct all questions to iwppapplications@gmail.com.