

Poetry Workshop, Writers in Florence 2019

Instructor: Mark Bibbins (mb6108@nyu.edu)

Attendance and Conduct in Class

You must attend every session (no absences or lateness), bring a poem every time, and participate in class discussions. It's as important to listen as it is to speak, so the general rule will be that while your own poem is being discussed, you are not to respond to your peers' comments, whether in agreement or disagreement, unless/until I give permission. Of course, if you have questions when we finish talking about your poem, you may ask them.

With the exception of our first meeting, you will always receive copies of one another's poems in advance. Please read them carefully and make written notes on the copies, which you will return to their respective authors.

Be sure to put your names at the tops of the pages of your own poems that you hand out, and sign off on the copies you return to each other, so you'll know whose comments are whose.

Always read your poems aloud at least once before you hand them in. It's an important part of the editing process, and it will help build confidence if you are anxious about presenting your work.

Formal Assignments

During the term you must complete three formal assignments: a villanelle, a sestina, and a poem in syllabics. We will review examples of all of these in class. You are welcome to bring the results in to be workshopped, or you may turn them in only to me if you prefer to workshop something else with the group. You may also send me revisions or request additional feedback on poems that have already been workshopped (email or hard copies are fine).

You may do the above assignments in whatever order you choose. They are due on Tuesdays: June 11, 18, and 25. I will also suggest optional "prompts" to help you generate new poems.

Readings/Handouts

There is no textbook for the class, but I will provide you with handouts and links to poems/essays online. Please keep all handouts in a folder and bring them to class. We will not always have time to discuss them as a group, but please be prepared to do so.

Office Hours

I will be available to meet with you before or after our workshop most days, should you wish to discuss your work in particular or your experience in the program in general. Please email me in advance to schedule an appointment and we can arrange a place on campus to meet.