HZ201/HZ9201 Creative Writing: Poetry
COURSE OUTLINE

Division of English, Nanyang Technological University

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Pre-requisite: HZ9101 Introduction to Creative Writing

Learning Objectives

The fundamental goal of this course is to help students develop effective, sustainable, and personally meaningful practices for writing through the genre of poetry. Students will develop a broader and deeper understanding of poetry as a literary form and artistic practice. They will become familiar with a broad range of compositional practices and use these as launch pads for improvising and developing a critical understanding of poetry as an expressive form of political and cultural engagement. They will learn new compositional methods through experimentation, workshop critique, and collaboration. Through collaboration with their fellow writers, students will explore ways of participating in writing communities within both national and international contexts, forming kinships with a broad range of innovative arts and cultural practitioners around the world. They will also analyse the concepts of audience, medium, and performance as foundational considerations for their own methods.

Content

Students of this course will read, write, revise, critique and perform poetry. They will engage in the history of global contemporary poetry and poetics as readers, listeners, writers, and performers. They will study the poetry and poetry-making practices of others, and expand the range of their own poetic practice towards sustainable and critical ends.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

S/N	Topic	Seminar Hours
1	**Motivations**: What is a praxis? Why do we write? We will explore our motivations, goals, and challenges as writers. We will get to know each other as writers and future collaborators.	3
2	**Methods of Reading, Reading as Method:** How do we read poetry? How do we make meaning? We will explore ways of reading and learn about creative creative experimentation as a method of discovery.	3
3	**Constructing the "I":** Who speaks in a poem? How do we know, construct, or invent this speaker? We will explore authorship, voice, personae, lyric, pronouns, and linguistic identities (including vernacular, dialect, codes)	3
4	**Language and Meaning**: How does poetry mean? What is a network of meaning? We will review diction, syntax, line-breaks, semantics, figuration, and image.	3
5	**What is a Poem?** What does a poem look like today? What are our expectations and assumptions for this genre? How shall we go beyond these? We will engage with radically divergent verse and non-verse forms, considering the medium, design, and shape of texts and their performance.	3
6	**Discourse and Form:** How does contemporary poetry respond to historical (traditional) forms? How can poetry be critical of formal rules and expectations? We will explore forms that utilize erasure, collage, parody, pastiche, and borrowed sources.	3
7	**Visual Forms:** We will discover the genres of visual and concrete poetry, and study the elements of open and organic forms.	3

8	**Sound Forms:** We will explore the genres of sound poetry and study elements of rhythm, rhyme, melody, consonance, dissonance, and performance.	3
9	**Mnemonic forms:** How are writing and memory associated? How can poetry be created to remember or forget? We will engage withs autobiographical, diaristic, and lyric poetries.	3
10	**Documentary forms:** Can poetry be a record of the world at a given moment? Can it be a historical document? We will explore procedural, aleatory, and documentary forms.	3
11	**Adaptive and 'Uncreative' forms:** What can be used to make poems? How can a poem be written without 'writing'? Can creative writing be uncreative? We will discover creative 'plagiarism', use of source texts, collage, pastiche, and inter-medial methods.	3
12	**Media forms:** We will study the codex medium and poetry books that deviate from traditional 'book' form.	3
13	**Media forms:** We will study non-codex mediums and discover net.art, e-poetries, interactive texts, and poetry off the page.	3

Learning Outcome

Students will develop greater understanding and control of language, genre, and medium. They will gain a command over a variety of compositional methods and study poetry through critical analysis and creative responses. They will ultimately develop an awareness of their own creative practice as a way of engaging the personal, social, and political contexts of their lives.

Student Assessment

a) Portfolio of Experiments 1: 25%
b) Portfolio of Experiments 2: 25%
c) Portfolio of Original Work: 20%
d) Event Reviews: 10%
e) Class participation (attendance, workshop contributions, engagement):   20%

Textbooks/References

Students will be provided with a course reader, a cache of PDF files, and links to necessary online materials.