WRITING POETRY
Prof. Richard Weinraub
Office: # 5, English Department, Pedreira (basement)
Phone #: 3805

ENGLISH 6411

3 CREDIT HOURS

PREREQUISITES: Fluency in English and authorization of the professor based on students' writing samples

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course will be run as a workshop in which students will give and receive constructive criticism. The assignments should inspire students to experiment with different styles and forms. For example, they will write free verse, blank verse, haiku, and sonnets; they will narrate a poem from the perspective of another person and create a poem from their dreams. They will learn to exploit the concrete images around them and the voice within them because most successful modern poems balance these two elements.

OBJECTIVES: This course will teach students how to:
- write creatively in a variety of poetic styles and forms
- use language more effectively
- utilize poetic devices
- tap into their sources of inspiration
- express their personal, political, and philosophical ideas
- analyze poetry critically and joyfully
- judge what makes a poem successful
- understand how a good poem differs from a great poem
- criticize constructively the work of their peers
- revise their work successfully
- comprehend the great traditions behind modernity

Each week students will make copies of a piece of their work.
TEACHING STRATEGIES: Students should see the professor during office hours to discuss their work in depth. Students are required to write at least one poem every week. In the middle of the term, students will hand in a folder with their best five revised poems, and at the end of the term they will hand in a folder with their best ten revised poems.

* Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a).

REQUIRED RESOURCES: Access to UPR library facilities, including electronic searches and access to a computer/ copier in order for students to copy their work for the rest of the class.

EVALUATION:
- Final folder: 80%
- Attendance: 10%
- Class participation: 10%

*Important evaluation factors
- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Participation in class discussions
- Work handed in on time

**Evaluación diferenciada para estudiantes con necesidades especiales.

GRADING SYSTEM: A, B, C, D, or F
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COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1: Introduction and haiku

Week 2: Imagistic poem

Week 3: Image/voice poem

Week 4: Memory poem

Week 5: Confessional poem

Week 6: Poem about Puerto Rico

Week 7: 1st person-as-3rd-person poem

Week 8: FIRST FOLDER DUE

Week 9: Persona poem

Week 10: Dream poem

Week 11: Surreal poem

Week 12: Metaphor poem

Week 13: Blank verse

Week 14: Painting poem

Week 15: Sonnet and FINAL FOLDER DUE

Week 16: Class reading