



## Syllabus for English 32, Creative Writing—Poetry

### Course Information

Semester and Year: Spring 2020  
Course ID and Section #: ENGL-32, D8535 (048535)  
Instructor's name: Ken Letko  
Day/Time: T-Th / 2:05-3:30  
Location: Room 34, Del Norte Campus  
Number of units: 3.0

### Instructor Contact Information

Office location: DM 27  
Office hours: Mondays, 2:35-3:00; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:00  
Phone number: 707-465-2360  
Email address: ken-letko@redwoods.edu

### Required Materials

Textbook title: *the Kerf*  
Edition: 2019  
Author: Ken Letko, Editor  
ISBN: 978-0-9910493-5-6  
The instructor will provide a copy for each student.

### Catalog Description

A study in developing the art of writing poetry, emphasizing communication, clarity, and economy. Students read and analyze many types of poetry while they generate, develop, critique, and revise their own and others' texts.

### Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Differentiate and utilize concrete detail and abstraction in poetry.
2. Control grammar and punctuation to clarify ideas.
3. Apply a process-oriented approach to writing poetry that involves inventing, drafting, revising, and editing.
4. Compose original written texts, using genre-specific structures and formal conventions.

### Evaluation and Grading Policy

1. 15%, turn in on time creative works for class discussion; each work must be presented in a clear legible format and in sufficient number so that each member of the class has a copy.
2. 15%, participate in discussion, demonstrating cooperation with class members in an effort to offer constructive criticism to peers and illuminate assigned readings.
3. 20%, midterm portfolio, by midterm, create a minimum of three completed poems and show evidence of initial drafting of at least four others.
4. 20%, during the closing weeks of the term, orally present to the class about eight pages of poetry created during the semester (5-10 minutes).
5. 30%, final portfolio, by the end of the term, submit (in manuscript form) a minimum of eight pages of new, completed work.

**Course Overview**

Throughout the term discussion of student-generated poetry will be the primary class activity through which peers and instructor will offer constructive criticism. On a rotating basis, students will submit poems for workshop discussion, providing one copy of each work for each class member. The author will first read the work aloud. Then discussion will ensue with each class member offering some commentary about the work. The author of the work being discussed will withhold commentary until all other workshop members have had the opportunity to speak. Discussion and commentary related to the assigned readings and outside sources will also be a regular part of class. During the final weeks of the semester, each student will be required to give a brief oral presentation (5-10 minutes) of his/her work to the class. The final portfolio will be due on Tuesday, May 12. On March 17 and 19 class will not meet because of Spring Break.

**Major Deadlines**

Midterm Portfolio.....Thursday, March 12

Final Portfolio.....Tuesday, May 12

Deadlines for work submitted to be workshopped and for oral presentation will be established as appropriateness of their scheduling becomes clear.

**Class Policies**

1. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices are not part of English 32. Do not bring them to class unless they are turned off or set on the vibrate mode. If you must take a call, quietly leave the room. Texting and camera use are never appropriate during class.
2. Laptops should not be open during class discussions but can be used when the instructor allows.
3. This syllabus is subject to change should circumstances warrant revision.