ENGL 2266
Creative Writing: Poetry

General Information

Instructor: Thor Polukoshko tpolukoshko@langara.ca (Office: A205)

Course Times: T/Th 12:30 – 14:20

Credits: 3 (for information about transfer credit, visit bctransferguide.ca)

Course Description

This course will explore the fundamentals of poetry writing. Through careful study of a variety of poetic theories and practices and a selection of work by local poets, students will learn to recognize and emulate a wide range of formal and thematic techniques and concepts used in contemporary poetry, including social concerns such as race, gender, and class; personal expressions ranging from romantic love to the embodiment of disability; ideological themes such as religion and politics; and aesthetic techniques ranging from verse form to acoustics. Other topics of inquiry that will be addressed through readings and assignments will include the study of recent poetic trends and movements and consideration of performance versus the written word.

Throughout the semester, students will be urged to engage with the literary community in Metro Vancouver by attending poetry readings and (schedules permitting) listening to guest speakers during class time. Students will also be encouraged to work towards publication of their writing.

Course Texts

- Andre Chesham & Laura Farina (Eds.) – ***Resonance: Essays on the Craft and Life of Writing***
- Courseware package consisting of about 25-30 poems—most poems will be contemporary works by BC writers (Fred Wah, George Bowering, Jeff Derksen, Larissa Lai, Stephen Collis, Rita Wong, Jacqueline Turner, Cecily Nicholson, Clint Burnham, Mercedes Eng, Wayde Compton, Reg Johanson, Roger Farr, Roy Miki, Phinder Dulai, Jordan Scott, etc.), but the package will also contain some canonized work to illustrate key poetic themes and formal features (Allen Ginsberg, William Carlos Williams, Langston Hughes, Amiri Baraka, E.E. Cummings, etc.)

*course texts are subject to change before the semester begins

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