H232 “Reading and Writing Contemporary Poetry” is a Poetry Workshop, with an enrollment limit of 15 students.

In this section of H232, we will read seven books of poetry--three by great, dead 20th century poets, and four by contemporaries whose work promises to place them among the great dead poets of the future. The writing required for the course will be poems--one for each poet we read and discuss. On alternate weeks we will discuss student poems in a writer's workshop format, so that the course will be equally divided between reading and writing. This course should interest two types of students--poets, or future poets, who wish to deepen and broaden their knowledge of contemporary poetry, and readers and critics who wish to study the methods by which a poem is put together.

Course texts:
Robert Lowell            LIFE STUDIES & FOR THE UNION DEAD
Elizabeth Bishop        THE COMPLETE POEMS 1927-1979
Robert Hayden           COLLECTED POEMS
Yusef Komunyakaa        MAGIC CITY

And three books of contemporary poetry to be determined.