HON-H232 (19425) Meaningful Writing: Reading and Writing Contemporary Poetry
Stacey Lynn Brown
MW 1:00pm-2:15pm
RE 2-120B

This section of H232 is a poetry workshop that will focus on the close reading of contemporary poetry as well as the creation of students’ own original poems. The class will be split between reading weeks and workshop weeks. During reading weeks, we will be studying elements of poetic craft from The Poet’s Companion and discussing poems that exemplify these concepts. On alternate weeks, we will workshop and critique original poems written by students. Students will also be responsible for one written response (500 words) per week to a poem of their choosing from the Faces anthology.

This course will be writing intensive, with writing exercises and critical responses to assigned poems due in addition to the generation of original poems. Students will also be required to either memorize and recite one poem or create a broadside (a poem rendered on a medium other than the page). The final portfolio for the class will consist of the original versions of the workshopped poems as well as revised versions that take into consideration the comments and suggestions discussed in workshop. In a critical analysis that will accompany the final portfolio, students will be asked to reflect upon the writing process and discuss the choices that they made during revision.

Reading

Laux, Dorianne and Kim Addonizio. The Poet’s Companion.
Supplemental poems, to be distributed in class and via Oncourse.

Assignments

• The memorization and recitation of a poem by a published poet OR
• The creation and presentation of a broadside, a poem by a published poet rendered on a medium other than paper (25% of final grade)
• Writing exercises for each chapter read in The Poet’s Companion and one written response per week to the poems in A Face to Meet the Faces (25% of final grade)
• A final portfolio, consisting of five original poems, with revisions, and a 500-word analysis of each revised poem, explaining the rationale behind the changes made (40% of final grade)
• Active, vocal participation in class discussion and workshop (10% of final grade)