

Area Program in Poetry Writing 2018

This area program of the Department of English allows talented undergraduate writers to pursue serious study of the craft of poetry writing within the context of the English major. The Area Program in Poetry Writing (APPW) encourages its participants to shape an interdisciplinary curriculum that nurtures and inspires each student's particular work and developing aesthetic. Many of our students double major or minor in another discipline that relates to their poetic projects and inclinations.

In addition to taking upper-level English literature courses, students in the APPW will take at least 12 hours of upper-level poetry writing courses (ENCW 3000, 4000, and 5000-level) and two 3-hour poetics seminars (ENPW 4820) designed especially for poets in the program (these are offered every term), and, in the second semester of the fourth year, a required capstone class (ENPW 4910), a one-semester project which culminates in the creation of a manuscript of original poetry.

The Poetry Writing Area Program is a two-year course of study. The Program is small and admission is competitive. Students apply in the spring semester of their second year. After the student is admitted, she or he must declare a major in English, though the requirements for the Poetry Writing program differ from the requirements for a standard major.

Committed to the conviction that close reading and creative writing are inextricably and essentially linked, the program requires its students to complete

+the pre-requisite to the English major (completion of an ENLT 2000-level course with a grade of "C" or completion of two (2) EN—3000-level courses, with the average grade between the two courses being a "B")

as well as 30 hours of upper-level course work in English,:

+ ENGL 3810 *and* ENGL 3820

+12 hours of upper-level poetry writing (ENCW) courses or independent studies (3000-level or above)

+Two (2) Poetry Writing Area Program seminars (Poetry Program Poetics, ENPW 4820)* on various topics of interest to students of poetry writing (students may take more than 2 of these classes if they wish)

+one pre-1800-level course in English at the 3000-level or above (ENMD, ENRN, ENEC, including any Shakespeare course at the 3000-level or above)

+the Capstone course (ENPW 4910), culminating in an original manuscript of poetry

***The Poetry Writing Seminars (Poetry Program Poetics):** These ENPW 4820 seminars are readings courses for poets, designed to foster intimate experiences of texts, creative work, reciprocal conversation about and discovery of mutual interests, enlargement of students' understanding of language and its capacities, and collegial community among students in the poetry writing program. Topics might include "The Poetic Sequence in Contemporary American Poetry," "Ecstatic Poetry," "Dramatic Monologue: The Mask in Verse," "Negative Capability and its Heirs," "Terrorizing and Creating Reality: Language & the Surrealist Poets," "Order and Disorder: The Lyric Impulse," "Brilliant Corners: Jazz & Poetry," "Poetry and the World," or "Poets' Prose." Or these seminars might focus on a particular poet or poets. These seminars are offered to APPW students each semester; the APPW student is required to take two while matriculating in the Program, and may take more than two if he or she wishes.

The Capstone Course (ENPW 4910): Area Program in Poetry Writing students are required to participate in a capstone course in the second semester of the fourth year, an exciting, semester-long endeavor in which students consider their aesthetic influences and begin to think across the single poem, curating their own poems into intentional constellations and culminating in the in the creation of a collection of original poetry. The course involves a combination of independent work and peer manuscript reading meetings, including the opportunity to work with an MFA student mentor.

How to Apply: Applications for rising third-year majors interested in the poetry writing area program are due to Director Lisa Russ Spaar (hard copy, in her faculty mailbox in Bryan Hall) by noon on **Monday, March 19th**. To apply, students must **complete the required application form**, accompanied by no more than ten pages of original poetry, a one- to two-page personal statement, and one letter of recommendation from a professor who knows well the student's work and potential for success in a small, focused program of study. Students should include a local telephone number and e-mail address with their submissions. *All materials should be submitted in duplicate, except for the recommendation letter.*

For Further Information: Contact Program Director Lisa Russ Spaar in Bryan Hall 407, or by phone at 434-924-6625, or by e-mail at LRS9E@virginia.edu. Application forms may also be found in Bryan 236.

Area Program in Poetry Writing Application 2018

Application deadline: 19 March 2018

Notification by e-mail: 2 April 2018

You are eligible to apply if you are a rising third-year student who intends to declare a major in English. *Please read the attached Program description before completing this application.* Please return the completed application (hard copy) to Lisa Russ Spaar, Director of the Area Program in Poetry Writing (faculty mailbox on the 2nd floor of Bryan Hall) no later than 19 March 2018, by 5 PM.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

1. Attach a copy of your current transcript. You may submit an official or unofficial transcript, including a copy of your Academic Record report.
2. Submit with this application a sample of your poetry--no more than 10 pages. No more than one poem per page.
3. Please attach a one- to two-page personal statement in which you explore and explain your reasons for wishing to take part in the Area Program in Poetry Writing.
 3. Please ask a faculty member or instructor who knows your work well to endorse your application. This recommendation may accompany your application in a hard copy, or may be sent as an e-mail to LRS9E@virginia.edu, and must be received no later than the application deadline.

REMEMBER TO TURN IN **TWO (2) COPIES OF ALL MATERIALS**, except the recommendation letter.