

Shaun T. Griffin

Syllabus notes: week one

Review of Course: English 477, fall 2003

Purpose: to give a chronicle of the development of literature in the twentieth century, which focuses on the major achievements of the poets and fiction writers from Nevada. My hope is that we explore the young but substantive tradition of Nevada letters. I want this class to be an invitation to further pursuit of the many fine writers and poets from this region.

Texts for the class: Desert Wood, An Anthology of Nevada Poetry, by Shaun T. Griffin, University of Nevada Press, 1991, and The River Underground, An Anthology of Nevada Fiction, by Shaun T. Griffin, University of Nevada Press, 2001.

Class expectations: there will be a brief videotape discussion of the material to be presented each week. Students will be expected to watch the videotape and read the material prior to the weekly on-line discussion of the specific topic/writers.

There will be a selected bibliography for the course that will include both fiction and poetry, and a specific biography of the books by the writers to be reviewed each week.

Students will be expected to write a weekly review of the material presented each week beginning in the third week i.e., a response paper to the poetry and/or fiction that formulated the week's presentation (except weeks 8 and 15). This paper should be proofread for errors of omission and inclusion prior to submission. The paper will be 250 words and submitted to the web site for the class by the end of each week of class.

A book analysis on a modern or contemporary Nevada poet or fiction writer will be due at the end of week eight. Notes on the book analysis to follow however you can choose your book from the attached bibliography or the bibliographies in the two texts.

A final paper will be on a Nevada poet or fiction writer in context (what they contributed to the literature in this state) will be due in week fifteen and the last "class meeting."

Grades will be determined as follows: 12 weekly reviews @ 3 points each = 36 points (1 point = average review, two points = good review, three points = well written, thoughtful review); one book analysis @ 32 points; one final paper @ 32 points. Final grades will be determined by the cumulative points earned: 90-100 points = A; 80-89 points = B; 70-79 points = C; 60-69 points = D; 59 or below = F. Late weekly reviews and papers will be given reduced points.

I will be available for on-line discussion and will endeavor to make all references and materials available to the student. I will also be available in my work office at 775-847-9311 most week days, 9-5.

S.T. Griffin, June 2003

A Brief Bibliography of Contemporary Nevada Poets

Bones Set Against the Drift, by Bill Cowee, Black Rock Press

Snake in Her Mouth, by nila northSun, West End Press

Flying Over Sonny Liston, by Gary Short, University of Nevada Press

Nothing You Lose Can Be Replaced, by Tom Meschery, Black Rock Press

Blood Sister, I Am to These Fields, by Linda Hussa, Black Rock Press

Death to Silence, Muerte al silencio, by Emma Sepúlveda, translated by Shaun T. Griffin, Arte Público Press

My Father's Martial Art, by Stephen Shu-Ning Liu, University of Nevada Press

The House on Breakaheart Road, by Gailmarie Pahmeier, University of Nevada Press

Just Past Labor Day: Selected and New Poems, 1969-95, by Kirk Robertson, University of Nevada Press

Ceremonies of the Damned, by Adrian C. Louis, University of Nevada Press

Bathing in the River of Ashes, by Shaun T. Griffin, University of Nevada Press

Poetry Bibliography Cont.

Torn by Light, Selected Poems of Joanne de Longchamps, edited by Shaun T. Griffin, University of Nevada Press

From the Still Empty Grave: Collected Poems, by A. Wilber Stevens, University of Nevada Press

Reading Sand, Selected Desert Poems, 1976-2000, by William L. Fox, University of Nevada Press

Claudia Keelan

Claudia's spouse

Poetry Resources Cont./2

Some poets I have been reading—

Mary Oliver, House of Light, Beacon Press

Marie Ponsot, The Bird Catcher, Alfred A. Knopf

Robinson Jeffers, The Double Ax, Liveright

Po Chü-I, Selected Poems, Translated by Burton Watson, Columbia University Press

Derek Mahon, Selected Poems, Gallery Press (Ireland)

Edward Harkness, Saying the Necessary, Seattle Publisher (Floating Island? 2001)

James Joyce, The Dubliners, The Viking Press

Seamus Heaney, The Redress of Poetry, Faber and Faber

Hayden Carruth, Collected Shorter Poems 1946-1991, Copper Canyon Press

Some poets on my list—

Miguel Hernández, Selected Poems, University of Chicago Press

Robert Morgan, Topsoil Road, Louisiana State University Press

Ethna McKiernan, The One Who Swears You Can't Start Over, Salmon Poetry (Ireland)

Some resources for your teaching, learning—

[Almanac@npr.org](mailto:Almanac@npr.org)-- Garrison Keillor's daily poem and author/history notes. An incredibly rich source of information about writers and writing. On public radio (KUNR at 6:30/8:30 a.m.) daily.

The Bloomsbury Review— a bimonthly book review of poetry, fiction, non-fiction from this region. Free— ask for it at your bookstore or subscribe: 303-455-7039; \$18/yr  
1533 Platte St, Ste. 206, Denver CO 80202

The Ruminator Review— a quarterly book review of poetry, fiction, non-fiction from this region and beyond. Free— ask for it at your local bookstore or subscribe: 651-699-2610; \$14/yr. 1648 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

Poetry Writing/Reading Resources Cont./3

Weber Studies— a quarterly journal of contemporary Western writers and writing. Brad Rhogaar, Editor, 1214 University Circle, Ogden, UT 84408-1214

A Brief Bibliography of Poetry Resources

A Crow Doesn't Need a Shadow, A Guide to Writing Poetry from Nature, by Lorraine Ferra, Gibbs Smith Publisher

Teaching the Art of Poetry, The Moves, by Baron Wormser and David Cappella, Lawrence Earlbaum Associates Publishers

What Shall We Do Without Us? The Voice and Vision of Kenneth Patchen, Sierra Club Books

The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry, by Dorianne Laux and Kim Addonizio, W.W. Norton and Co.

The Haiku Handbook, How to Write, Share, and Teach Haiku, by William J. Higginson with Penny Carter, Kodansha America, Inc.