

Craft of Poetry-Fall 2009

Dr. Lyons, 317F Lee Hall
Tuesday / Thursday, 2 p.m.
EN 4303/6303

Purpose: We will run, I hope, a rigorous and enjoyable workshop to write and revise new poems for a professional audience and, hopefully, to build a professional curriculum vitae and, hopefully, to build a manuscript or writing sample to apply to universities offering M.F.A. or a Ph.D.

Method: Besides feedback from professor (and copy editing) and feedback from peers on various drafts, a successful student ought to love reading contemporary poetry by professional poets and by other aspiring MSU poets.

If a student only enjoys his or her own poetry, then this class is probably not that person's cup of tea.

Five Required Paperback Texts (Professor advises ordering these used on Amazon or Alibris)

Contemporary American Poetry. Editors, A. Poulin, Jr. and Michael Waters, Eight Edition, Houghton *Mifflin*
Cold Pluto, Mary Ruefle, Carnegie Mellon UP
Old Heart, Stanley Plumly, W.W. Norton
The Selected Levis, Larry Levis, U of Pittsburgh P
Leaving Saturn, Major Jackson, U of Georgia P

We will read all of the Plumly volume, Ruefle volume, and Jackson volume.
We will read excerpts from Poulin and Levis.

Note: Graduate students should know that this class is one of best ways to prepare for the M.A. Examination's explication segment.