

The Draft Season: 12 Months — 1 Poetry Collection

Welcome to the Draft Season!

THANK YOU for joining me.

This course wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for y'all showing up. I would have no way to test-run this if it wasn't for your participation. So, thank YOU! I couldn't begin this experiment if you all hadn't agreed to come along for the ride/join while you can. Sincerely, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Why This Course?

One of the issues I ran into post-MFA is that I stopped writing as frequently. It was harder to stay focused without a course, workshop, or really just any kind of structure. I am hoping this course will remedy that, and it seemed worth the time and effort to try.

The Goal: Write a Poetry Collection in a Year

It's really that simple. This is a **generative** course, meaning that the goal is to **produce as many first drafts of poems as possible that could potentially become the bones* of an award-winning poetry collection.**

*I say the "bones" because revision is its own art and requires a slightly different set of skills — which every poem/collection requires. But, for our purposes, the goal of this course is to draft as many **first drafts** as we can, with the expectation that maybe 25% of what is written this year perhaps doesn't leave the cutting room floor, so to speak. Who knows? Maybe you'll include more or less by the end. But you can't make a decision to cut something when no poems are written yet, right?

What You Can Expect of Me

- **I will do everything I can** (within reason) **to stick to the schedule** as outlined in the attachment & I am committed to seeing this course till the end.
- Should something major come up and I do need to cancel, I will do my best to **provide you with ample notice via email.** And if time/energy/resources permit? I will also provide you with optional "homework" instead.
- On top of the yearly schedule provided, **additional "Drop in and Write" sessions will be spontaneously added with some notice** to the schedule when I can to offer additional support for you this year. This will be a good

opportunity for you to play “catch up” if you are behind on your poem count or even just space to brainstorm/be in community virtually.

- **“Drop in and Write” sessions are much more relaxed and informal writing gatherings.** Any student is welcome to bring prompts/ideas to these sessions. But basically, we’ll show up and say hello, and go on a 10-15 minute writing sprint. Come back and share (only if you want) and then go for another 10-15 minute writing sprint (so on and so forth). Think of it like a kind of writing [body-doubling](#) for neurodivergent people (like me!). You’re welcome to show up and leave early or drop in late, etc. Do what you gotta do here. These are always optional, but intended to keep you on track.
- **I am going to be starting a new book project alongside you** to test this experiment/challenge myself. So, while I am an instructor, I am also a participant as well.
- **I will be providing instruction, prompts, and writing time during the “Instructional Classes.”** This is when I’ll be doing the heavy lifting as an instructor. I’ll be talking a lot during these sessions, and will likely also be presenting via screenshare/powerpoints.
- **Instructional Classes will not be moved or postponed so long as at least one other student and I can show up.** This isn’t to be difficult or stubborn, it’s in order to stay consistent with what the challenge requires of me as both an instructor and participant.
- Because this course is test-run for a course I will eventually want to monetize? **I will not be providing notes beyond the slides in presentations and the resources in the shared google drive.** However, you are welcome to take notes and share notes amongst yourselves.
- Because we’re all together for a year (or at least, that’s the goal!), you can trust that **I will be fair, kind, and firm about creating a healthy, respectful virtual classroom environment.** I am hoping that I never need to address behavioral or ethical concerns in the classroom, but I will listen and respond appropriately if something disruptive happens in class/is brought to my attention.
- I might occasionally ask poet friends and acquaintances to present on a craft topic, a form, their book journey, etc. **You will be notified in advance if a guest will be present in a class.**

What I Expect from You

- That **you make yourself and your writing a priority** this year. We all have different capacities/responsibilities and that will look different for different students in this course. I know some people in the course have little kids, are

care-takers, work multiple jobs, travel for chunks of the year, etc. Only you can decide what your capacity is/what things to prioritize within the course.

- That **you come ready to contribute, engage, learn, and ask questions with your fellow classmates in the “Instructional Sessions”** when you are able to/have the capacity to attend.
- That you **treat me and your fellow classmates with goodwill and respect**, even while disagreeing.
- That you **mute your mic during instructional portions of the course when your fellow classmates and I are conducting presentations**.
- That **you do your best to abide by the date and duties of your book presentation after you sign-up. And if something comes up, you will agree to attempt to trade presentation dates with another student in the course to avoid instructional hiccups**. There will be more details to come in January, but you all will be conducting a mini presentation and writing prompt exercises for an award winning poetry collection within the last 5 years of your choice. Templates and instructions to come.
- That **you communicate with me if you’re having issues with something going on in class/with the material**.
- That **you email me if you wish to drop the course, along with a brief explanation** (i.e. was the reasoning a life thing? Or is it about the course? I need to know what things I need to change in order to be a better instructor and course designer. *Please don’t deprive me of the knowledge of what I can do better to better serve students and their needs*). Also, please do not ghost me — I will worry for your life and safety!
- **I kindly ask that you refrain from recording any of our sessions on any of your devices** to protect both the intellectual property being developed here but also out of respect for your fellow classmates who need a safe learning environment to take artistic risks and be vulnerable on the page. We have everyone from newbies to people that have PhDs present in class, and we need to ensure that the classroom is safe for everyone at every stage in their own artistic development.
- You will be sent a survey in the middle and the end of the course (or if you drop it)— please complete both. This is just a chance for me to find points of improvement in how I am conducting things. I can’t change what isn’t working if I don’t have feedback, so please be honest when these things are sent your way!
- That you [complete the google form contract agreeing to these terms](#) prior to December 31st. **You will not be given the Zoom link without the completion of the form.**

Thank you!