

Course Content Description

The New Yorker Poetry Podcast, free and widely available on the internet, will be the basis of this course. For each meeting, students will listen at home to a selected episode (as per the syllabus) of the podcast, in which the host poet (either Paul Muldoon (Dec. 2013-10/2017) check) or Kevin Young (11/2017 to present)) and a guest poet discuss poems. The guest poet reads a poem of his/her choice from the NYer archive, and the host and poet discuss it. Then the guest poet reads a poem he or she has published in the NYer and the two discuss that poem. The podcasts run 20 to 45 minutes.

The class will have copies of the discussed poems and a sampling of other poems by the poets, distributed by the instructor.

Listening in as poets talk together about the style, craft, and choices that make up the artistry of specific poems is enlightening and inspiring for those with a serious interest in poetry. In class, we won't replay the podcast, but will expand upon the two poets' discussion, noting what characteristics of the poems we have noticed and exploring the way that meaning and mystery are created by the use of the language.

Students will be asked to listen to the assigned podcast at home, hopefully at least twice, noting interesting points and comments by the 2 poets.

Syllabus: Possible Episodes to be Discussed (One podcast per class; 5 will be chosen from these or others in the archive) Hosts: KY Kevin Young; PM Paul Muldoon

Vijay Seshadri Reads Sylvia Plath KY)

Campbell McGrath Reads Czeslaw Milosz (KY)

Charles Simic Reads Sharon Olds PM)

Danielle Chapman Reads Zbigniew Herbert (PM)

Tom Sleigh Reads Seamus Heaney (PM)

Tiana Clark Reads Natasha Trethewey "Repentance" (ekphrastic) (KY)

Ellen Bass reads Adam Zagajewski (PM)

Phillip Levine reads Ellen Bass Dec 18 2013 (PM)

Diane Seuss reads Jane Huffman Aug 31 2022 (KY)

Kaveh Akbar reads Ellen Bryant Voight Oct 17 2018 (KY)