

SOPHISTER MODULE DESCRIPTION 2021-2022

Full Name: The Practice of Poetry

Short Name: The Practice of Poetry

Lecturer Name and email address: Harry Clifton, cliftonh@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: Hilary Term

Year: SS

Module Content:

This course, intended for students with a strong interest in both the writing and the criticism of poetry, will have a workshop component in which poems written by the members of the group will be examined and discussed. We will also, in the second hour, look at and critique a broad range of work from the existing tradition, in the light of critical writings by practicing poets in and out of the academy (see recommended reading below)

Students will be expected to produce work to deadline. They must be prepared to have their work discussed in class and to offer constructive and considered criticism to their peers.

Learning Outcomes:

Ability on the part of students to write poems and think consciously as they write about where in the tradition their work may derive from.

Learning Aims:

To familiarise student practitioners of poetry, through the production of a pamphlet with an introduction, of the origins and context of the poems they are writing.

Assessment Details:

Number of components: 2

Type of components: Poems, Introductory Essay

Word count of components: 10 poems of between 20-60 lines each, introduction of between 750-1000 words

Percentage value of components: poems 75%. Introduction 25%

How to Apply:

Students interested in this course may apply by submitting a short covering letter outlining their interests and practice in this area, together with a sample of their work (4-6 poems/ 2 A4 pages maximum per poem. Be sure to include your name and email address.

Class numbers will be capped at ten, and successful applicants will be informed when the modules have been allocated.

Recommended Reading:

The Harvill Book of Twentieth Century Poetry in English edited by Michael Schmidt, Harvill Books.

The New Oxford Books of 16th/17th century verse
Modern European Poetry (an anthology of translations) edited by Willis Barnstone,
Bantam Books
Poetry in the Making Ted Hughes, Faber and Faber
Object Lessons Eavan Boland, Vintage Books
What is Found There Adrienne Rich, Virago Books
A Poet's Country; Selected Prose, Patrick Kavanagh, Lilliput Press
Works by individual poets will be introduced in photocopy form as required.