Poetic Temporality Creative Writing Workshop

ENG 4XX-/5XX, 3 Units

Upper-Division Undergraduate/ Graduate Workshop Syllabus

J.W. Symington IV, Ph.D.

Department of English

<u>COURSE DESCRIPTION</u>

This workshop investigates time as a material of writing. Moving beyond linear narrative and lyric present-tense immediacy, the course explores how poems and prose construct temporal experience through memory, anticipation, repetition, pace, delay, rupture, and duration.

Students will examine how form shapes time and how time shapes voice, subjectivity, and narrative movement. Through generative writing, revision, and workshop discussion, participants will develop work that experiments with temporal structures while cultivating sustained attention to rhythm, pacing, and historical and spatiotemporal awareness.

COURSE READING LIST

Poetry, Prose and Hybrid Forms

Hélène Cixous — "The Laugh of the Medusa"

Anne Carson — *If Not, Winter: Fragments of Sappho*

Gustaf Sobin — Selected poems

Henri Michaux — Selected poems

Inger Christensen — *It Is* (selections)

Susan Howe — *That This*

Layli Long Soldier — Whereas

Renata Adler— Speedboat

Supplementary Poetics & Theory (Short Excerpts only)

Martin Heidegger — *Poetry, Language, Thought* (selected essays)

Walter Benjamin — "Theses on the Philosophy of History"

Jacques Derrida — "Différance," in *Writing and Difference*

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

- Workshop Participation (30%): Active engagement through attendance and discussion, this includes weekly drafts and exercises (short-form experiments, free-form: pacing, sequencing, temporal tension).
- Rotating Peer-review Participation (30%): Emphasis on listening, precision and constructive critique. Students submit written feedback prior to workshop meetings every week.
- Final Portfolio (35%): 10-15 pages of poetry or 15-20 pages prose.
- Artist Statement (5%): 2-3 pages on revision, narrative/voice, and craft choices.

COURSE POLICIES

- Attendance: Required. More than three absences may affect your final grade.
- Late Work: Accepted with penalty unless arranged in advance.
- Academic Integrity: All writing must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism will result in failure for the assignment.
- Accessibility: Students with accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor early in the semester.
- AI Use Policy: Generative AI tools may be used to assist brainstorming or structure but **NOT** to write your work.