

**New & Revised Course Descriptions**  
**(updates to the 2011-2012 Reed College Catalog)**  
**Updated: October 12, 2011**

**CrWr 224 Poetry Studio I: Rearranging the Mirrors**

Full course for one semester. In Cole Swensen's poem *The Painter Rearranges the Mirrors*, she writes: "You open a little door. The door could be anywhere." This line will serve as our governing mantra in creating an entry point for approaching poetry and, in particular, for writing poems. We will examine the poem as portal, as a backstage all-access pass of our own making; and any other door left ajar will be ours to enter as figuratively as we please. In practical terms, this will translate to rigorous reading, writing exercises, and in-depth class discussion designed to hone the critical skills and strategies necessary to the craft. Heavy emphasis will be placed on encouraging and examining student work within a workshop format, but we will also cover a wide range of published poetry, contemporary and otherwise, from poets aligned with our thinking and poets diametrically opposed. Enrollment limited to 15. Prerequisites: a writing sample of three to five poems and consent of the instructor. Conference.

**CrWr 274 Poetry Studio II: The Ekphrastic Poem (Refractions in the Field)**

Full course for one semester. In this course, the ekphrastic poem (a poem based upon another work of art, often in a different medium) will serve as the primary method by which we explore our writing. Ushering in influence from paintings, sculpture, film, photography, and other fields, we will study the refraction of image into word and the relationship between visual and verbal modes of expression. Collaborative investigation will include weekly writing exercises designed to strengthen general poetry writing skills, as well as rigorous reading of a wide range of published poetry and essays, from Plato to Marcel Duchamp to Frank O'Hara to Claudia Rankine. Heavy emphasis will be placed on encouraging and examining student work within a workshop format, in addition to museum and gallery visits and group projects with local working poets and artists. Enrollment limited to 15. Prerequisites: a previous creative writing workshop course, a writing sample of three to five poems, and consent of the instructor. Conference.

**CrWr 331 Special Topics Studio: Identity**

Full course for one semester. Identity is an obsession for every writer. We attempt time and time again, and never quite to satisfaction, to decipher, elucidate, and shake a self into a sensible, determinate thing; but Identity is crafty, protean, and so yielding as to slip out of grasp. What or who is an identity? What are its particulars? Why is Walt Whitman's sexuality spoken about as much as his poetry? Was William Carlos Williams a doctor or a poet? Who is the "I" speaking in a poem? In this course, we will focus on writing and reading poems that explore these questions and the attendant issues of authenticity, persona, dissemblance, and (auto)biography to stimulate the creative process. Heavy emphasis will be placed on examining student work within a workshop format. This studio is designed for students who have had extensive creative writing workshop experience. Enrollment limited to 15. Prerequisites: Creative Writing 224, a writing sample of three to five poems, and consent of the instructor. Conference.

**CrWr 331 Special Topics Studio: Advanced Poetry Workshop**

Full course for one semester. The focus of this course is to provide an intensive critical forum for students to engage deeply with the practice of poetry. We will work to further each individual poem and the development of each poet, exploring various strategies to generate new work, re-approach revision, and extend our sense of what a poem can do. Enrollment limited to 15. Prerequisites: Creative Writing 224 and one other poetry workshop, a writing sample, and consent of the instructor. Conference.