Where To Reach Me:

E-mail:  
mcdermotc@sfasu.edu (preferred)  
OR cmcdsfaclass@gmail.com (if sfasu.edu is having difficulties)

Phone:  
936-468-2059

Office:  
Liberal Arts North 227

Office Hours:  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday  9:00-10:30  
Tuesday  11-12; 1-2:30  
Thursday  11-12

Time:
Arranged between instructor and student. Student will meet with instructor at least once every two weeks, probably more as project is finalized for thesis committee. All deadlines set by the graduate school (see graduate coordinator) must be met.

The defense of the manuscript should take place in April.

Course Description:
Writing necessary to complete the M.A. thesis. Grade withheld until completion of thesis.

Credit Hour Justification:
ENGL 5390 "Thesis Writing" (3 credits) is for students who are writing a Master's thesis, which can consist of an analytical or creative writing final deliverable, depending on the track in which the student is enrolled (Literature or Creative Writing). Students work independently, according to the plan of the approved thesis proposal, under the direction of the thesis director (who is listed as the course instructor of record). The student will meet regularly with the director, and as needed with other members of the thesis committee, and will submit drafts of the thesis as per the schedule outlined in the thesis proposal and until the thesis is successfully defended and approved by the committee, a process that must be occur according to university deadlines. Students are expected to produce 100-140 pages of formal writing. May be repeated up to three hours.
Prerequisites
✓ The student has 12 credits of graduate-level creative writing workshop (at least 3 workshops and successful completion of 589 and thesis proposal)
✓ The student has consent of his/her faculty advisor.
✓ The student has the consent of the creative writing program coordinator.
✓ The student has consent of the graduate studies coordinator.

The official Program Learning Outcomes for this course include:
• The student will demonstrate close reading skills and recognize strategies used by professional creative writers.
• The student will employ techniques and strategies for crafting carefully composed, competent creative work.
• The student will demonstrate strategic revision on completed creative work.
• The student will compose and sustain a complete, polished manuscript of substance in the focus-genre.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE (of meetings)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGULAR MEETING ASSIGNMENTS</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROUGH DRAFT (of second half)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL MANUSCRIPT</td>
<td>45%</td>
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</tbody>
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ATTENDANCE (5%)
The student will attend scheduled meetings with professor. If the meeting must be cancelled, twenty-four notice must be given and an alternative meeting time should be arranged. Thesis meetings with the director may be face-to-face, via email, or skyped, depending on the arrangement with the professor. The professors’ comments may be made in a face to face meeting or typed & sent or any combination. This grade will also include prompt delivery to the committee members of the thesis before the defense.

REGULAR MEETING ASSIGNMENTS (30%)
The student will complete portions of the project before the meetings. During the meetings arranged by the professor, these portions will be discussed for edits. The first half of the manuscript should go through an edit in the first 3 weeks of the semester, so that this portion of the manuscript is completed. Afterwards, the meeting assignments will include additional poems and revisions to prepare the manuscript for presentation to the committee.

ROUGH DRAFT (20%)
A complete version of the manuscript should be given to your professor at least two weeks prior to sending it to the thesis committee. It should be 48-64 pages of poetry and be paginated and include the required materials as shown on the graduate website for thesis, including the vita, acknowledgements, cover pages, table of contents, and abstract.
FINAL MANUSCRIPT (45%)
Final edits must be completed by early April and given to the committee in a timely fashion. The manuscript must be arranged in a cohesive order. Graduate school formatting guidelines should be adhered to.

NOTE: You may work/edit/revise materials from earlier classes (559, etc.) for the thesis. Make sure your professor is informed if that work has been graded/edited by another professor, as this means it has already been looked at by a professional which necessitates a different kind of editing.

University Policies You Need to Know:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

WITHHELD GRADES SEMESTER GRADES POLICY (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

PSYCHOLOGICAL/MEDICAL NEEDS
A faculty member is not a trained counselor. If you need emotional counseling (and several of us do), please make sure you take advantage of SFA's free services.

Contact: 3rd Floor, Rusk Building
Phone: 936-468-2401
counseling@sfasu.edu
Hours: M-F 8:00am-5:00 pm

After hours resources: UPD: 936-468-2608
MHMR CRISIS LINE: 1-800-392-8343
911 for life threatening situations

If you fall ill, be sure to take care of yourself but inform your instructors if you must miss class. Take advantage of medical services offered on campus or go to urgent care.

If you have a temporary limiting situation or condition that requires extra care or management, make sure to contact the Students Rights and Responsibilities Office, as they can assist you with informing your teachers of your needs/absences while maintaining confidentiality. They are located in Rusk 315, Phone: 936-468-2703

CALENDAR
The student shall check in weekly until the completion of the thesis.

The student shall meet with the thesis director one hour face to face at least every other week to discuss new poems and edits.

As the thesis nears its final draft, more meetings may occur to make sure it is suitable for defense.