

English 229, Spring '20

Independent Work Component of Chapbook

Roughly 20% of your chapbook will be unassigned items you've written on your own. These can be anything you like: additional poems, stories, creative nonfiction, plays, or film scripts. **The number and length are all negotiable; I'll be in touch with everyone!**

Possibilities:

- 3-4 extra poems
- 1 extra medium-to-full-length short fiction (4-6 pp)
- Several pieces of additional flash fiction
- 2 extra poems and a flash fiction piece
- 1 short creative nonfiction piece and 2 poems
- Etc.

If in doubt about whether you are producing enough, feel free to email me anytime.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria for poetry and fiction will be standard expectations as detailed in class critique forms and in the Fiction Project. For example, see our poetry critique form for information about what makes a good poem and the kinds of questions you should ask about your work before considering it done.

The independent work should be imaginative, free of clichés, and well-developed with lots of specific detail. It should be carefully edited for clarity and proofread for mechanical errors. All pieces should have titles. Any genre or sub-genre is ok. The amount of work should equal approximately 15% of the chapbook in content and/or page count. You will work with your instructor to be sure you have enough material.

Grading scale for independent work:

Outstanding = A Meets stated criteria and instructions extra well. Excels in inventiveness, originality, and energy, relative to work produced generally in 229. Well-edited and proofed. Includes an appropriate amount of material.

= 18-20 pts.

Very Good = B Meets the stated criteria and instructions, or meets several of them exceptionally well, despite a weak performance with others. May be especially striking in spots, despite noticeable flaws. Very competent, but may lack originality or inventiveness, relative to work produced generally in 229. Includes an appropriate amount of material. Good attention to style and mechanics. Clear attention to assignment.

= 15-17 pts.

Fair = C Meets most of the stated criteria, or meets all of them only partially. Not very inspired, but fairly competent; or very inspired but lacking competence in key areas.. May show some inattention to, or misunderstanding of, instructions. Weak proofreading and editing. May include too little material, and/or have not have been checked by instructor.

= 12-14 pts.

Poor = D Meets few of the criteria. May not heed or understand instructions. May be sloppy, unproofed, unedited, and/or very perfunctory and uninspired.. An unsatisfying work, saved by at least minimal attention to at least one facet of the piece.

= 9-11 pts.

Unacceptable = F = less than 9 Work either fails to meet any of the stated criteria, or demonstrates severe oversights or weaknesses in significant areas.