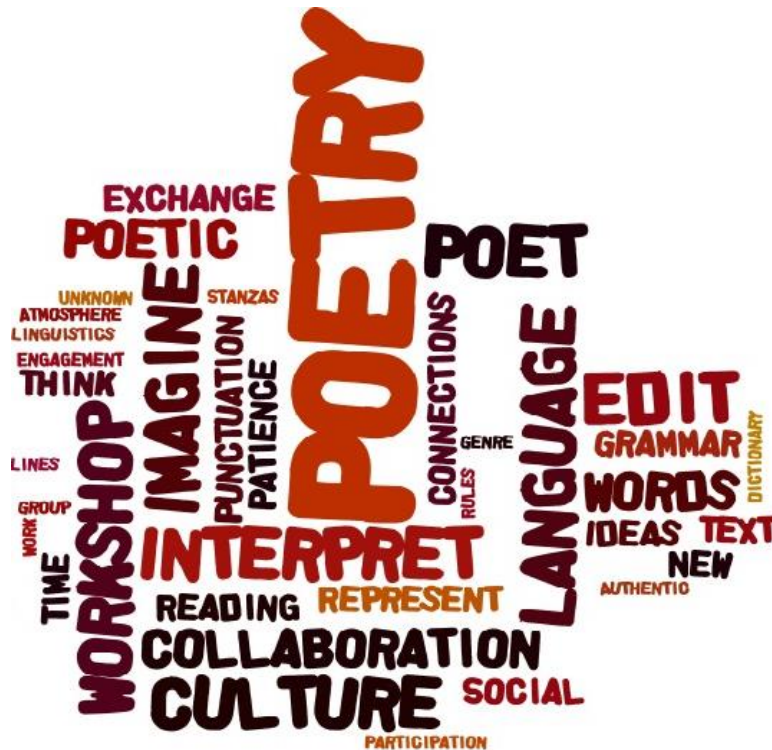


English 213
Creative Writing: Poetry
Spring 2023

Tues & Thurs: 2:30-3:45 pm
Armstrong 120

Professor Amy M. Alvarez

amy.alvarez@mail.wvu.edu | Office: Colson 231



“Poetry is a matter of life, not just a matter of language.” – Lucille Clifton

“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise.”— Sylvia Plath

What makes good poetry good? How can you learn the craft of poetry so the poem in your head becomes the poem on the page? In this course, you will learn to identify excellent poetry by reading poems by many contemporary poets working in the United States. You will also write your own poems and will receive and offer feedback through writing workshop. We will discuss (and practice) the elements of poetry—line, sound, form, imagery, et cetera—so you will have the tools to write stronger poems that better reflect your own fierce voice.

We may read poems by: Ada Limón, Ocean Vuong, Patricia Smith, Lucille Clifton, Mary Oliver, Layli Longsoldier, Terrance Hayes, Ross Gay, Dawn Lundy Martin, Joan Larkin, Martín Espada, William Brewer, Gregory Pardlo, and many others.