ENGL 313: Poetry Workshop
Professor Mary Ann Samyn
Spring 2027, Mondays 4-6:50 p.m.

BLESS OUT
by Ida Stewart*

The trouble is finding language that tells the truth.
The margins are wide here, and steep; the middle all but disappears
from some angles, the way an ampersand, untwisted and stretched,
is just a strike-through, a new road out—out with the old.
This is the land of afterthoughts and wildflower ideas, complicated
root systems choking one another in, clinging on
to interpretation. To say the margins are wide implies leeway,
but not when you're trying to carve a real life, to make this
melon-thump middle *mine*. We say *it's raining* when the sky is falling.
I mean, sometimes the earth washes from under our feet, rains
down on our houses and heads and we still float to the top.
This is the land of rain, oh honey, blessing us out.

Siren II
by Mitchell Glazier*

Deep in the night's cave song, martyrs send photos of their bodies.

I'm thinking of us, in the nightclub's upper room.

This is the story of sons

who sell what remains

to pay the rent.

In this course, we will read, write, write about, and listen to poetry. ENGL 313 is like ENGL 213, but even better. Questions? Please email me: maryann.samyn@mail.wvu.edu

*Ida Stewart was in my ENGL 313 in 2002. She went on to get an MFA at The Ohio State University and a PhD from the University of Georgia. This poem is from her first book, *Gloss*, winner of the Perugia Press Prize, 2011. Mitchell Glazier was in my 313 in 2014 and 2015. He went on to get an MFA at Columbia University. This poem was published in the journal *Hobart*.