

Poet Talk

The New Yorker Poetry Podcast, free and widely available on the internet, will be the basis of this course. For each meeting, students will listen at home to a selected episode (as per the syllabus) of the podcast, in which the host poet (either Paul Muldoon (Dec. 2013-10/2017) or Kevin Young (11/2017 to present)) and a guest poet discuss poems. The guest poet reads a poem of his/her choice from the NYer archive, and the host and poet discuss it. Then the guest poet reads a poem he or she has published in the NYer and the two discuss that poem. The podcasts generally run 20 to 35 minutes.

The class will have copies of the discussed poems and a sampling of other poems by the poets, distributed by the instructor.

Listening in as poets talk together about the style, craft, and choices that make up the artistry of specific poems is enlightening and inspiring for those with a serious interest in poetry. In class, we won't replay the podcast, but will expand upon the two poets' discussion, noting what characteristics of the poems we have noticed and exploring the way that meaning and mystery are created by the use of the language.

Syllabus: Possible Episodes to be Discussed (One podcast per class; 5 will be chosen from these or others in the archive) Hosts: KY Kevin Young; PM Paul Muldoon

Charles Simic Reads Sharon Olds (PM)

Danielle Chapman Reads Zbigniew Herbert (PM)

Tiana Clark Reads Natasha Trethewey "Repentance" (KY)

Rae Armantrout read Susan Wheeler

Catherine Barnett reads Wislawa Symborska (KY)

David Lehman Reads John Ashbery (KY)

Steven Mitchell reads Richard Wilbur (PM)

Andrew Motion reads Alice Oswald (PM) 4-7-19

Kevin Young Reads John Berryman (PM) 2-15-17

Monica Youn reads Afaa Michael Weaver (PM) 4-20-16

Kaveh Akar reads Ellen Bryant Voight (KY) 10-17-2018