Poems are conversations we have when we're alone. Even if we take workshops and talk about poems in all our free time, at last, it's just a piece of paper and a reader or writer. And it turns out reading and writing aren't really separate activities, more like two halves of the same motion, like inhaling and exhaling. With this idea, the notion that when we read or write we are participating on a conversation going on between our heads and words on paper, in mind, this workshop will focus on how to see poems from established poets from the inside, as if you had written them, and how to read your own poems from a critical distance. Students will be asked to write poems using traits and strategies gleaned from the work of these established poets, filtering their own styles through the aesthetics of these exemplary poets. The goal will be for you to become better readers and writers at the same time.

**Attendance Policy:** You must attend class every day. If you **must** be absent, please email me beforehand to let me know.

**Buddies:** Each student will be assigned a **buddy** who will write a letter to the author about each poem under consideration and begin the class discussion. These letters will also be emailed to me before each workshop session.

**Presentations:** I will assign each of you a book by a contemporary poet. You will acquire this book (either from the library or bookseller), research the poet enough so that you can give us a 2 minute summary of his or her biography and context in the world of poetry, and then copy 3-5 pages of poetry to teach to the class.

**Required Texts:** Class reader.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

1/23/17 - Class Intro
1/30 - Discussion, no workshop

2/6 - Group A workshop
2/13 - Group B workshop
2/20 - NO CLASS: PRESIDENT’S DAY
2/27 Group A

3/6 - Group B: Presentation poets assigned
3/13 - NO CLASS - SPRING RECESS
3/20 - Presentations
3/27 - Presentations

4/3 - Group A
4/10 - Group B
4/17 - Everyone Workshops
4/24 - Everyone Workshops

5/1 -
5/8 - Class Outro