**English 816-001**

**Seminar in Poetry Writing: Voice(s)**

**Mauricio Kilwein Guevara**

*Course Description*

I'm teaching English 816 for the last time in my career in the spring. Hence, I plan to savor every moment, laugh, insight, and discovery we make. I'm thrilled to see the work you find in our community of writers. Most of you probably self-identify artistically as poets, but I also welcome graduate student prose writers from any of the other plans or departments at UWM who have maintained a parallel practice as poets and who want to challenge themselves to do new and surprising work. Therefore, university graduate students outside of the creative writing program *who also write and read poetry seriously* may consider taking this course as an elective. (Note: This course is not available to auditors.)

I've subtitled the course: Voice(s). My goal is to have students reflect on the types of poetic voices they have forged in the past and to invite them to explore new and surprising poetic directions in our course. To this end, early on, students will write a short essay including three very different poems they have written in the past and a 750 to 1000-word reflective essay describing and commenting on the "voice" being performed in each example. Voice, of course, is a metaphor for the performance of being human through written language. Voice is achieved by playing with any number of poetic elements such as line, image, diction, etcetera.

Each student will then compose six original poems and one substantive revision.

Students will also pair up and lead a discussion of a recent collection of poetry. We'll probably read six (slimmer) volumes.

I haven't yet made the final text selections, but the six, required texts will be chosen from the following longer list:

*Build Yourself a Boat,*Camonghne Felix

*Slash/Slash,*Amourak Huey & W. Todd Kaneko

*All This Time,*Cedar Sigo

*Amanda Paradise*, CAConrad

*Connotary*, Ae Hee Lee

*How I Became a Hum,*Eric Baus

*Waterbaby,*Nikki Wallschlaeger

*Piñata Theory,* Alan Chazaro

*The Wild Fox of Yemen,*Threa Almontaser

If you have questions or permission requests, please send me an email at maurice@uwm.edu.