

POETRY KIT ONLINE POETRY COURSES



"...extraordinary value for money."

**Wherever you are as a poet
we can help you get to the next level.
Courses for beginners and experienced poets.
Mentoring and critique service also available.**

JUNE 2023

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POETRY KIT COURSES

GENERAL NOTES

All Poetry Kit courses are distance learning, conducted using email as the basic delivery mechanism and any download content can be done at a time to suit the student. There is nothing needed other than a way to communicate with us, tablet, phone, laptop etc.

Generally, there are no set times to attend or sign in, and this flexibility means that a student can engage at a time which is right for them. This enables students from around the world, in many different time zones, to participate fully. For our shorter three week courses there is a weekly timetable, where tasks have to be completed within the week. But for our longer courses generally the pace of the course is

On some courses, for those who want to engage with others, there is the option of a forum for the purpose of peer review and some discussion. This is through email and can be a valuable contribution to the overall experience.

All feedback to students is given personally and privately by the course leader and this will always seek to be encouraging, supportive and authoritative.

Bursaries

We have bursaries available for Mentoring and other longer courses and application is easy and non-intrusive. So if you would like to be considered for one of those packages please write to bursaries@poetrykit.org

In this Brochure you will find details of all our courses and how to enrol

New in June 2024

Time, Timing and Pace in Poems

Rhythm and pace in a poem can convey a lot of meaning and add levels and tone and develop mood as the poem is being read. This is an important way to convey meaning and tone in the delivery. This is fine when the poem is being read by the poet but how do we build this into the poem so that it conveys to the reader these ideas of how the poem should be read and understood. This can add more interest and meaning to the poem. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MHPRG2HW9BARJ

New in July 2024

Between the Lines

What lies between the lines in a poem and how can this be presented for the reader. This course will look at presenting backstory and foreshadowing and how these can be used to great effect in contemporary poetry. These skills can help add layers of understanding and meaning to a poem.

The use of nuance and suggestion are also included. In this exciting course that will explore new possibilities in poetry. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YA3X3A564DKYL

SHORT COURSES

UPCOMING SHORT COURSES

can be booked by paying the fee using the PayPal link below the required course.

SHORT COURSES FOR JUNE 2024

JUNE 3rd – 24th JUNE

Time, Timing and Pace in Poems (NEW)

Rhythm and pace in a poem can convey a lot of meaning and add levels and tone and develop mood as the poem is being read. This is an important way to convey meaning and tone in the delivery. This is fine when the poem is being read by the poet but how do we build this into the poem so that it conveys to the reader these ideas of how the poem should be read and understood. This can add more interest and meaning to the poem. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 – https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=MHPRG2HW9BARJ

Poetic Truth

In this course we will be looking at how poetry approaches truth. We will be looking at what truth is and how it is represented in poetry and looking at poems that present experiences and how these are presented to the reader to best effect. We will also look at how a fiction can be used to emphasise a bigger truth. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 – https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=NLHWJFEBY8RKN

Making it Real

How do you make something in a poem appear real and authentic for the reader? How can you make something real that is very hard to describe, or make a person in a poem feel like a real person? How do you avoid cliché and caricature? These are just some of the issues that we will explore in this short course. The course will be conducted online over 3 weeks at a cost of £30.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6XGG97SFK24U4

Poetic Devices

In this short course we will be looking at a variety of poetic devices that can be used to enhance your poetry and add layers of interest and musicality to it. Poetic devices when properly used and understood can help make the poem sound more natural for the voice and more in keeping with a strong poetic. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 - https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=D2S89VJS959LU

Finding Inspiration

This three week course looks at finding inspiration and ways engage with different subjects. We will look at ways to prepare and collect thoughts into a start point for a poem and strategies to develop poems from a variety of possibilities. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6TGBU5NTZ6ZG2

Journeys

This three-week course will be looking at Journeys and how they can inform all aspects of poetry. From actual journeys to new places, through embodying journey as a metaphor to engaging with the journey through life. There are many ways to approach this, and we will be looking at many of those and seeing how the ideas can be used in our poems. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=B2MNJRGF89RJ8

Prose Poetry and Flash Fiction

This short course will explore both Prose Poetry and introduce Flash Fiction. These two discipline areas have grown in interest over the past years and many magazines publish pieces alongside other styles of poetry creating even more interest in them. Both are here to stay so this course will provide an introduction to these exciting forms. The course will be conducted over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=9TF6MUCFPSUWL

A Cabinet of Curiosities – Objects in Poetry

This course will be focusing on objects and how they can be used in poetry. We will look at strategies to help the poet to use objects and to look at juxtaposition and metaphor. The importance of an “object” as a symbol or metaphor and how this can enhance a poem. The cost of the course is 30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=KX9TAXT6ESVVA

Sense and nonsense - the poetry of the surreal

Surreal or nonsense poetry has a strong history in the development of poetry. Its place today is less sure but this course seeks to introduce poets to the ideas surrealism and how these can benefit a poem. On this course we will look at the origins of the surreal and how it is still applicable and can produce some spectacular results. The cost of this course is £30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=74D4NQ8PMBEM8

New Poetry Workshop

This three week course looks at new ways to find subjects, write, edit and publish poems. This is a challenging course that asks poets to look at these issues in a new way. Ideal for those wanting to write more and to have more tools available. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=92UM85FEPMN9Y

Poetry in changing times

This is a short online course for poets who want to look at the way their poetry can stay relevant in changing times. We will be looking at relevance, authenticity and voice as cornerstones for producing poems that engage with change. We will look at personal, scientific and imagined responses. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 -

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=AMXZ6LGUKBKJU

Ekphrastic Poetry- Part 2

This is a continuation course from our original Ekphrastic Poetry Course. The aim of this course is to look at the different approaches that can be taken to bring new insights to poems that engage with a broader range of Ekphrastic poetry. During the course poets will be asked to respond to a series of paintings using a variety of techniques. Poems will be workshopped, and full feedback given. The cost of this course is £30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=8MNJMWTSYSBBW

Poetry and Music

This course looks at the interaction between poetry and music, how music can inspire poetry and the use of poetry as lyric. The musical properties of poetry, rhythm and line choices, and new ways to use sonic devices in poetry. We will be looking for many opportunities to develop these ideas into poems. Full feedback and help will be given during the course. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=EFGXHMJ9KG8NY

Writing Poetry for Children

This is a short online course for poets who would like to write poetry for children. On this workshop course we will look at what works in poetry for children and what does not. Language and imagery, metaphor and how children see the world. Holding a young person's interest and storytelling through poetry. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=VS2TUQGPXYQFS

Poems in the everyday

The poet interacts with the world in a variety of ways. This short course we will look at how the poet can interact with the world and find poems in everyday events. We also look at journaling and notebooks. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YBZH2UU6PN6WG

Journals, Diaries and Dreams

This three-week course looks at notebooks and journals as a key resource for writers and poets. Learn more about how these can be used and how to use them more effectively, recording events and snapshots, scrapbooking and dreams and how to use these in poetry.

The course costs £30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=729CEH4CJ2LG4

Sonnet Workshop

This short 3 week course looks at the sonnet in its traditional form and how poets are rediscovering it as a vehicle in contemporary poetry. This has always been a popular form but in many ways not fully understood. This course will focus on producing sonnets and discovering possibilities in the form that have not been considered. The cost of this course costs £30.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=DN8LBA3KTDN62

Metaphor and Revelation in Poetry

This 3 week course looks at the transformative qualities of metaphor in poetry. The way metaphor can be used in exciting ways to bring new revelation and understanding in a poem. We will look at metaphor different ways and see how important it is. The cost of this course costs £30.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=55WBNXUYUL8CJ

Exploring Symbols and Myth

Poems can use myth and symbols to explore modern themes. Myths and symbols come from our joint experience and can be used to add deeper meaning in a poem. This three week course will focus on understanding and incorporating these devices in poetry. The cost of this course cost is £30.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=Q9WDCYBE22TR6

Reprise a course for £20

Many of our students want to repeat a course and it seems unfair to ask for a full fee so if you want to repeat a course and submit new poems for the tasks then it will cost only £20 using the payment link. Do remember to write and let us know which course you want.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=K77BNVPJN2LX4

SPECIAL OFFER

Book any two short courses for £50 using the link below, and then please write to us at info@poetrykit.org to let us know which two courses you would like.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6ESMVNLE4NG6Q

SHORT COURSES FOR JULY 2024

JULY 8th - 29th

Between the Lines (NEW)

What lies between the lines in a poem and how can this be presented for the reader. This course will look at presenting backstory and foreshadowing and how these can be used to great effect in contemporary poetry. These skills can help add layers of understanding and meaning to a poem. The use of nuance and suggestion are also included. In this exciting course that will explore new possibilities in poetry. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YA3X3A564DKYL

Making a Point

Sometimes it can be difficult to put across a point of view without appearing to be hecktoring, patronising or didactic.. In this course we will be looking at ways in which the poet can make their point while at the same time presenting the poem to the reader in a way that will get them to think and perhaps decide that they might agree with points they might not have thought about before. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=55QZ4SW8CPTR8

A Different Way to See

Sometimes we want to write a poem but end up dissatisfied with the results this is a short course to introduce you to new ways to see and engage with an object or subject. Develop a new perspective that will enhance your poetry and build a deeper understanding. There will be some aspects of poetry explored on this course that you probably have never thought of in the way that we will look at them. The course will be conducted online over 3 weeks at a cost of £30.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=6XLN32565Q7K4

Puzzles in Poetry

This three-week course will look at the different ways that poems can be used to play tricks on the reader. From enigmatic content to puzzles that depend on the layout and form of the poem. Poetry has a long history of being used in this way and even by code makers. But here we will be looking at the way that this can add depth and interest to the poem. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30

- https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=TUKZRRRJC9VMY

Unexpected Poetry

This three week course looks at the way we can use unexpected connections to develop poetry. We will look at different starting points and where they take us. Learn to recognise the fundamental sparks that can set us on the road to unexpected poetry. . The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 -

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=2GARS87FM37PN

Seasons

Poets have always been inspired by the seasons. And the subtle changes they bring stand as metaphor and symbols for events in life as well as presenting colour and background. This course will look at how the poet can use the season to best advantage and deliver poems that engage with the seasons, and how the season can add layers of meaning in a poem. The course is conducted over 3 weeks at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=FP3EWJSW7ZUQ8

The Right Word

Mark Twain said “To get the right word in the right place is a rare achievement.” And it is true that a well-chosen word can bring a poem to life and a poorly chosen word can stifle it. In this course we will be looking at how the choice of a single word can set the tone and mood in a poem, and even be used to engage with a subtext that create layers in a poem’s understanding. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=DBS2BDHTT3W36

Developing the Craft

This three-week course looks at developing a number of craft elements that will help the poet to produce modern freeform poetry. Understanding how and when to use some poetic devices that will engage with the reader can be the key to writing engaging poetry. The cost of this course is £30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=WENDB4T6SAGCS

Writing Ekphrastic Poetry

The aim of this course is to look at the different approaches that can be taken to bring new insights to poems that engage with a piece of visual art. During the course poets will be asked to respond to a series of paintings using a variety of techniques. Poems will be workshopped and full feedback given. The cost of this course is £30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=H8J5AMXL8FTFN

Writing in traditional forms

This three week course looks at new modern ways to use traditional forms. These forms can be ways for poets to grow the tools available and to find new ways to say what they want. These forms can produce memorable and exciting ways to explore modern topics. This is a challenging course that asks poets to look at some traditional forms in new ways. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=GY3FNDXNXT3H6

Poetry and the Natural world

This is a short online course for poets who want to look at the ways to engage with the natural world, and look at the impact of human activities on the world around us. On this course we will move from the romantic view of nature to the urban landscape and to the impact of human activity. We will be looking at and writing poetry relevant to our changing world. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=2XUS74ASPPDZ6

Poetry and Science

This short online course looks at how poetry can interface with different sciences and provide a way to use exciting ideas in poetry, and how poetry can interpret a scientific world view. Starting with geology, and onto physics and astronomy. You do not need a scientific background just an interest in finding new ways to develop poetry. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=2RJQ37ZF587LW

Images, short forms, and haiku

This course looks at the role played by images in poetry. It considers their use in short forms and how they can be used to develop engaging and memorable poems. As part of this process, we will be looking at the opportunities and challenges presented by short forms including haiku. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 -

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=W48NLELP3TB92

Strategies for Writing Poetry

What do you do when you hit a point when the ideas and ability that you rely on for writing poetry dry up. This happens to most writers from time to time, and on this course, we will look at proven strategies to get past this point. This is a course suitable for everyone even if you do not have a problem as these are strategies to help approach poetry in new ways. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YSCXM42LTKWGU

Adventures in Poetry

This short course looks at ways to approach poetry and to consider it in a wider context. We will look at new ways to engage with poetry and the reader. To present poetry in new ways and to bring a freshness to your writing. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=B8CSV48PN25S4

The language of shape

Lines and Stanza. Understanding the way structure influences the way the poem is received. Different ways to engage with line and shape in poetry. Using end stopping and enjambment and caesura to add interest and structure in a poem. Standard and non-standard punctuation in modern poetry. The course will be conducted online over three weeks, at a cost of £30 –

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YRKQFPDXJT2VY

Phycogeography and Place in Poetry

This short course looks at ways in which the poet and the reader are influenced by place. How the urban environment can feed into the poetry and becomes an essential setting. We also look at the way place influences the interpretation of the poem and how to develop a sense of place in poetry. The cost of the course is £30

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=3R9FUX9W5R952

JIM BENNETT

Course supervisor and principal lecturer.



Jim Bennett lives near Liverpool in the UK and is the author of 78 books, including books for children, books of poetry and many technical titles on transport and examinations.

His poetry collections include.

Drums at New Brighton (Lifestyle 1999)

Down in Liverpool (CD) (Long Neck 2001)

The Man Who Tried to Hug Clouds (Bluechrome 2004 reprinted 2006)

Larkhill (Searle Publishing 2009)

The Cartographer / Heswall (Indigo Dreams 2013)

He has won many awards for his writing and performance including 3 DADAFest awards. He is also managing editor of www.poetrykit.org one of the world's most successful internet sites for poets. He has been nominated for a Pushcart Award on 10 occasions and shortlisted for the Basil Bunting Award in 2013.

Jim taught Creative Writing at the University of Liverpool and Edge Hill University now tours throughout the year giving readings and performances of his work.

In 2020 Jim Bennett's many booklets and pamphlets of poetry some of which are unavailable in print are being reissued in Kindle editions. You can see all the available Kindle publications at Jim Bennett's Authors page on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/-/e/B00DHD7F4Q>

LONGER COURSES FOR POETS

Short descriptions below, more details on each course follows.

Introduction to Poetry

The Introduction to Poetry Course is for those who want a taster in writing poetry, and it will take the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry in a supportive, encouraging and interesting way.

Poetry Foundation

As a general rule, if you are new to writing poetry, and are looking to find out more, and to see if you have an aptitude for it, then the Foundation Course, would be the right course for you. This helps to create the time and space to explore poetry and get into the habit of writing on a regular basis, also helps to consider the subject. At the end of the Foundation Course the poet should be forming the habit of writing, recognising subjects. They should also be developing skills in reading and editing their own poetry.

Poetry Course - Part 1

The Part 1 Poetry Course is for the poet who is trying to explore poetry and develop their style. This course looks at form and structure in poetry. A broad course that will give a wider view of poetry, help the poet to broaden their writing and learn about the various poetic devices and effects that can be used. At the end of this course the poet should have an understanding of form, structure and style. Editing and rewriting skills should be improved. They should also have an indication of what editors are looking for in selecting poems for publication.

Poetry Course - Part 2

The Part 2 Poetry Course. This course helps the poet to develop their own voice and individuality at the same time broadening the appeal of the poem and considering the audience as an intrinsic part of the creative process. At the end of this course the poet should be able to consider particular markets and readership. Have an understanding and be able to identify and use appropriate poetic devices, and be able to create poetry which is crafted and individual.

Mentoring Programme

The Mentoring Programme is for those who have been writing for some time and who want to find new ways to develop their poetry. Mentoring focuses on the needs of the individual. So aspects of writing are explored and techniques engaged to explore and present alternatives to push the poet to achieve their potential. Bad habits are identified and strategies for writing and further development are considered. At the end of mentoring the poet should be better able to identify problems in their writing and be prepared to experiment and develop their style. The Mentoring Programme can be taken up to 5 times.

There is also a mentoring option for prose writers.

Masterclass

The Poetry Masterclass is an immersive course that offers support and encouragement through a weekly set of tasks and readings over an extended period. With full feedback and tasks designed to stretch and develop the poets skills we hope to help students to develop further as poets as they extend their skills and knowledge.

Critique

This is a service available from Jim Bennett, allowing those using the service to send 10 poems (2 at a time) and have them individually critiqued by Jim who is an internationally known, prize-winning poet. By sending poems over a period of time the participant can use the service to develop their skills and to get feedback on their progress

The Poetry of Bob Dylan

This course takes a look at Bob Dylan's writing. How he has achieved some of the effects in his lyrics and students will be writing poetry that uses some of these techniques.

Introduction to Poetry

As with all our courses the emphasis is on encouraging the student to produce poetry and to give good reliable feedback.

Duration - There are 5 lessons of exercises, including feedback and guided study. These can be completed in three weeks, but a student may take a bit longer if required.

The Course - The Introduction to Poetry Course is for those who want a taster in writing poetry and it will take the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry in a supportive, encouraging and interesting way.

This is a basic course in writing poetry and takes the participant through some of the primary processes of writing poetry with a number of practical examples and writing exercises. The purpose of the course is to allow the participant to explore aspects of writing poetry and be a sampler to introduce them to a wider reading and understanding.

Qualifications required - People wishing to take this course do not require any previous qualifications, they do however need to have an interest in the craft of writing poetry and a determination to improve their writing.

Some items covered

Introduction, styles and types of poetry.

How to read poetry

How to write a poem

Fee - The course fee is £20 (UK£)

Poetry Foundation Course

Duration – 20 lessons - of exercises, feedback, and guided study.

Time to complete, approx. 10 weeks

The Course - This foundation course in writing poetry takes the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry with lots of practical examples and writing exercises. The purpose of the course is to allow the participant to explore many aspects of writing poetry and to introduce them to a wider reading and understanding.

The course will look at modern free form poetry and the principles of good writing practice. This course has been introduced to enable those who are relatively new to poetry to develop their skill and to learn more about contemporary poetry.

Qualifications required - People wishing to take this course do not require any previous qualifications, they do however need to have an interest in the craft of writing poetry and a determination to improve their writing.

Poetry Foundation

This course takes the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry in what we hope they will find is an entertaining and interesting way. We hope to help them develop good practise and a structured approach to writing. This is achieved through a series of set exercises backed up with help and feedback. The purpose is to allow the participant to build their skills of observation and develop clarity of language and expression while at the same time allowing their individual voice and technique to develop.

Some items covered

- Introduction, styles and types of poetry.
- How to read poetry
- How to write a poem
- Engaging the reader
- Using a notebook and recording snapshots.
- Sources of poetry
- Revising a poem
- Using figurative language

Fee - The course fee is £65 (UK£)

Part 1 Poetry Course

Duration – 25 lessons

Time to complete, approx.14 weeks

The Course - This course takes the participant through some of the basic processes of writing poetry in an entertaining and interesting way. Through a series of set exercises, discussions and critique sessions, backed up with talks, notes and feedback. The purpose of the course is to allow the participant to build their skills of observation and clarity of language while at the same time following their individual voice and technique to develop.

The course looks at a variety of styles and forms of poetry which will allow the participant to build a sound knowledge of some of the technical terms while utilising them in a practical and interesting way. The course includes elements relating to preparing and submitting poems for publication, reading poems and presenting them in a live setting, revising poetry and editing.

Poetry 1

The course looks at a variety of styles and forms of poetry which will allow the participant to build a sound knowledge of some of the technical aspects while utilising them in a practical and interesting way. The course includes elements relating to preparing and submitting poems for publication, reading poems, revising poetry and editing.

Some items covered

Poetic structure
Contemporary Poetry
Transparency
Authenticity
Writing free form poetry
Lines and Stanza structures
Modern form and structure
Editing
Traditional forms
Markets / Getting published

Qualifications required - People wishing to take this course do not require any previous qualifications, they do however need to have an interest in the craft of writing poetry and a determination to improve their writing.

Fee - The course fee is £80 (UK£)

Part 2 Poetry Course

Duration – 25 lessons

Time to complete, approx.. 16 weeks

The Course - This course in writing poetry takes the participant on from the point of Poetry 1 and is intended for those with some experience at writing and who wish to develop their skills further. The objectives of the course are achieved through exercises designed to introduce new concepts in writing and challenge the participant, backed up with talks, notes, support and feedback. The purpose of the course is to allow the participant to build their skills of observation and clarity of language while at the same time allowing their individual voice and technique to develop. The course looks at a variety of styles and forms of poetry which will allow the participant to build a sound knowledge of some of the technical terms while utilising them in a practical and interesting way. The course includes elements relating to preparing and submitting poems for publication, reading poems and presenting them in a live setting, revising poetry and editing.

Poetry 2

This is a high-grade course and makes assumptions that the participant will already have a wide experience of poetic techniques, the features looked at on the course are looked at from an advanced point of view -- roughly equivalent of a third year University module. Basically the course follows the following session structure. Each session consists of a number of parts.

Some items covered

Writing poetry that is engaging
Modern free verse
Lineation
Complexity in poetry
Poems from art and found objects
Editing

Qualifications required - People wishing to take this course do not require any previous qualifications, they do however need to be able to identify themselves as writers with some experience. Those who have previously taken the Poetry Kit Poetry 1 course will find this a natural development, although this is not essential.

Fee - The course fee is £95 (UK£)

Mentoring Programme

Duration – 30 lessons

Time to complete, approx. 20 weeks

Mentoring Programme – One to one mentoring. In each session there are challenges, exercises and projects to complete. Ideas are discussed and foundations for poems developed with assistance and feedback, working through drafts to completed poems. This is a mentoring experience that will work with strengths and identify weaknesses in writing style, all content chosen to meet the needs of the poet. The mentoring is over a period of 10 sessions, at the end of that you should have portfolio of poems which are complete and further poems in draft which are being worked through. The purpose of this course is to offer individual mentoring and the time taken will depend on the speed of the student.

Mentoring can be taken up to five times.

Fee – The course fee is £110 (UK£)

This is actually less a taught course and more of a shared experience of poetry. The sessions work in one of two ways; the first is a challenge to write a poem in a particular way, or on a particular subject or with particular tools. The poet will produce a draft and then we will look at ways to develop, improve or change the poem. The poem is developed in this way until it is complete. (copyright of the poems produced on any of our courses remains with the poet)

We also consider any bad habits in the poet's writing, we all have these, particularly if you write a lot or have been writing for a long time, and show you how these can be eliminated. The second type of poem will be any that the poet wants to write and feel they need some advice about; in this case we will work in the same way with that.

We also have exercises on different poetic elements; some of these will be very easy, while others might bring on a bit of head scratching.

Some poets join the mentoring programme because they want to work on a collection or produce a new sequence of work. Whatever is needed we will be able to assist the poet.

Mentoring is very fluid and although there are many prepared sessions, we may use all or none of them, this is mentoring for a poet and the poet is the most important person in this process.

A Mentoring option is also available for prose writers.

Masterclass Programme

Duration 40 lessons

Time to complete, 6 Months - (but up to 10 months if needed)

Masterclass Programme – Weekly sessions with tasks, challenges, exercises or projects and readings to complete and for comment.

Ideas are discussed and foundations for poems developed with assistance and feedback, working through drafts to completed poems. This is an extended and immersive mentoring experience that will work with strengths and identify weaknesses in writing style, all content chosen to meet the needs of the poet.

The course is over a period of 20 sessions, at the end of that you should have a portfolio of poems which are complete and further poems in draft which are being worked through. The purpose of this course is to offer individual tailored mentoring that will help the student progress their career as a poet. .

Fee – The course fee is £220 (UK£)

Critique

The Critique Service - Critique of up to 10 poems (or a total of 450 lines of poetry)

This service covers critiques of 10 individual poems (totalling no more than 450 lines). Longer poems, even a single poem, may be submitted up to a total of 450 lines of poetry.

For critique we ask the poet to send the poems two at a time. When the first two poems are received they are read and Jim Bennett might write and ask a question or two. After a period of consideration, he will write a critique and may offer help and advice if he feels it necessary. Critiques are usually returned within three days, not counting weekends. After you have received the critique for the first two poems you can then send the next two, and so on up to a total of 10 individual poems. You are invited to comment or question any of the points in the critique and Jim will respond to this as appropriate.

Fee - The fee for this service is £60 (UK£)

The Poetry of Bob Dylan

Duration – 25 Lessons

Time to complete, approx. 8 weeks

The Course - This course takes a look at Bob Dylan's writing. How he has achieved some of the effects in his lyrics and students will be writing poetry that uses some of these techniques. We will be looking at examples of his writing from periods throughout his career and examining how he uses words to shape the environment of the song, we will also be looking at his influences and the influence he had on others. We will look at his body of work and try to understand the position he occupies in popular music.

Fee £80 (UK£)

TESTIMONIALS

WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE TO SAY

Some comments from students related to the short courses.

“...you've saved many hours of my precious time writing many words and going nowhere creative fast. I've loved this course - three weeks is a perfect length of time to totally immerse yourself...” BF

“... thank you so much for the course - immensely enjoyable. ...feedback priceless.” JM

“Thanks... for your kind comments and for an inspiring course, which has also been great fun.” DK

“Thanks for all the useful advice and information.... I really enjoyed the course and learned a lot so thank you” FW

“Thank YOU, for an interesting, fun and well-conceived course, full of varied exercises and inspiring poetry. I really enjoyed it and feel that what I wrote... (I) would not otherwise have attempted.” AMcI

FOUNDATION

I had a great time completing the beginner's course. I felt it was personally tailored to suit me, the assignments were interesting and enjoyable, and Jim's comments were constructive and generous. I hope to take another course after having got some more writing under my belt!
HB - ENGLAND (Foundation)

This course has been excellent and achieved what was stated on the website in terms of seeing poetry differently and gaining confidence in writing. I really appreciated the prompt one to one feedback and helpful advice.
JW - ENGLAND (Foundation)

I thoroughly enjoyed this course – Jim Bennett is not only a poet of the highest calibre, but a most inspirational tutor who is exceedingly generous with both his time and knowledge. I would recommend the Poetry Kit without hesitation to anyone wishing to develop their poetic skills.
SF - ENGLAND (Foundation)

I really enjoyed the course: it opened me up to the possibilities of poetry and made me take my own writing more seriously. The feedback throughout the course was specific, helpful and thought provoking. I'm going to sign up to another of your courses now and look forward to continuing to work with you.
EB - ENGLAND (Foundation)

PART ONE POETRY COURSE

I took Level One and found that my perception of poetry was challenged and reinvigorated. I found Jim Bennett to be an excellent tutor, encouraging and honest in his critique of my work. I will definitely sign up for at least Level Two, building upon the confidence and inspiration this course has given me. The Poetry Kit also offers great value for money. I highly recommend it.
A McC - N. IRELAND (Part 1)

I signed up for a poetry kit course as I was struggling to move forward with my work. Within 6 months of completing the course I had poems published in two of my three target publications. The third came soon after. I found Jim to be a good teacher and felt very much as if he had connected with me for the duration of our course. I am certain I would have given up on poetry without Jim's support and teachings.
MS - ENGLAND (Part 1)

I have just completed Poetry Part 1, an online course which I have thoroughly enjoyed. The content and instruction has been of high quality, engaging, interesting, constructive and encouraging. The responses received have always been extremely prompt and I can highly recommend this course to anyone who should be considering it. I've enjoyed it so much that I have now enrolled on part 2!
TE - ENGLAND (Part 1)

The course was extremely useful and incredibly good value - the one-to-one feedback meant that I feel my writing has progressed a great deal.
AM - ENGLAND (Part 1)

PART TWO POETRY COURSE

I have found that following the course and doing my best to fulfil the assignments set has sharpened my awareness of the 'making' aspects of poetry. In particular it has made me more conscious of lazy writing, line-breaks, overly 'poetic' language.
The course has been useful in encouraging me to break away from my current writing interests and forcing me to think harder about what works in a poem. Having deadlines and specific tasks, while it may not have produced any very memorable poems, has kept my writing muscles (in the brain as well as the hands!) flexed and been a productive experience.
I would like to thank you for an interesting, original and most stimulating course which has consistently engaged my creative and critical faculties and is excellent value for money.
AC - SCOTLAND (Part 2)

I was able to do Jim's poetry course on and off while working and looking after my son. I always looked forward to the next assignment and felt that by

the end of the course, I had developed a rapport with the man. Highly recommended.

RI - SPAIN (Part 2)

MENTORING

The personal feedback I received was excellent and I still value everything we covered a few years on.

NW - SPAIN (Mentoring)

Taking the intermediate level course, and then the mentoring sessions put me on the right track to create better poems. The exercises and feedback from Jim were valuable, to make me see objectively where my repeated failings were, and how to recognise lazy habits. The mentoring was particularly helpful as it was personalised and supportive.

GR - UK (Mentoring)

Learning and studying Poetry, through Level One, Level Two, and two full sets of Mentoring sessions, with Jim Bennett of the POETRY kit, has been the most enriching learning experience of my life. Jim is attentive, sensitive, supportive, a great teacher and a marvellous poet. The courses are extraordinary value for money.

JF - IRELAND (Part 1-2 and Mentoring)

I undertook the mentoring one to one course with Jim Bennett at a very vulnerable time in my writing career. I was lost and unsure what my writing voice was; what it looked like and/ or sounded like. With Jim's gentle and patient but very honest and knowledgeable guidance, I am now in an empowering position of not only knowing my voice but being confident enough to share my voice with others, far and wide, no matter what.

I loved working with Jim because his writing assignments pushed me out of my comfort zone in measured steps. His feedback and discussions were just what I needed to look at my writing critically and compassionately. It's a shame our time of working together had to come to an end.

SM - ENGLAND (Mentoring)

I learned a lot from the PK courses. The material I produced was treated with due acknowledgement of the work I put in to it. I feel more confident in being able to produce work of a reasonably high standard. I enjoyed the courses very much.

DA - ENGLAND (Part 1 -2 and Mentoring)

I have just completed a course of one to one mentoring with Jim Bennett. His feedback is always prompt, helpful and constructive and has helped me develop my skills in writing poetry. The reading material provided has been interesting and stimulating'.

Questions you might have.

How do I know if I am a poet?

How do the courses work?

Do I need to purchase any books or other material?

Do I have to have set times each week?

How long does it take to complete the course?

Will there be feedback?

What sort of work will I be asked to do?

What previous experience do I need?

How do I know if I am a poet?

Everyone has the potential to be a poet. It is a bit like learning to drive, some will learn and enjoy a quiet trip out at the weekends, others will find the cut and thrust of city driving to be a challenge, and some will be gifted and go on to the racetrack. Well it isn't like that really but you get the point, there is something in writing poetry for everyone. Even if after giving it a fair test you find that writing is not for you, then you will develop a deeper appreciation of reading poetry and what it has to offer.

How do the courses work?

Our courses are a bit like correspondence courses conducted by email with some downloaded information from time to time. So you will need access to an email provider and occasionally the internet, although if there are problems with that then other arrangements can be made. Nearly all of the work we do is via emails.

Do I need to purchase any books or other material?

No. All course materials are part of the set work and assignments for the course and will be sent to you via email by the course tutor. A recommended list of poems to read will be provided, but these are available on the internet and only for background and personal study, not intended as part of the course.

Do I have to have set times each week?

No. Times are flexible. You will get an email with information and assignments or feedback, and you can respond to this in your own time.

How long does it take to complete the course?

Many of our courses are ten session, the length a session can vary, but generally an overall ten session course can be completed in 12 weeks but we allow up to five months to take personal circumstances into account, and the speed of response from the student.

Will there be feedback?

Yes, the course learning outcomes are achieved through reliable feedback. All coursework, poems and other assignments receive comment which will be useful. Students are also encouraged to ask any questions and clarify any points.

What sort of work will I be asked to do?

Assignments do vary, but there will be some assignments that call for a reflection, which is a short piece of writing giving your opinion about something, you may be asked to read some poems or other articles provided, and you will certainly be asked to write poems.

What previous experience do I need?

You do not need any formal qualifications. An interest in poetry and writing poetry is important, but even more important is the ability to approach a subject with an open mind and be willing to look at things in new ways.

COURSE ENROLMENT

There are several steps in registering for a course.

First please select the course you require and pay the fee through PayPal.

STEP 1 - Pay the Course Fee to info@poetrykit.org at PayPal

Poetry Foundation Course	Fee £65
Poetry Part 1 Course	Fee £80
Poetry Part 2 Course	Fee £95
Mentoring	Fee £110
Poetry Critique Service	Fee £60
The Poetry of Bob Dylan	Fee £80

If you have difficulty with this there are live links to payment options at our enrolment page online at <https://www.poetrykit.org/pkcourse/pkcourse1.htm>

When the fee has been paid please complete the enrolment form on the next page.

STEP 2 - Complete the Enrolment Form

ENROLMENT FORM

Please copy this form plus your answers into the body of an email and send it to info@poetrykit.org

First please tell us;

Have you paid the appropriate fee through PayPal YES/NO

Which course do you want to take?
would you like?

What start date

For all courses please answer these questions;

1. Full name postal address, phone number. (These are for our records only and will not be used for any other commercial purpose).

For poetry courses please answer these questions.

2 Name your three favourite poets.

3 What are the last three poetry books that you have read?

4 If you normally read poetry on line, which sites do you prefer?

5 Give a broad view of your writing career to date.

6 List (if any) published work.

7 What is your age and educational background?

8 What previous courses have you taken?

9 What are you hoping to get from this course?

10 How did you find out about this course?

When you have done this please write a short bio giving some details about yourself.

STEP 3

You should receive confirmation from our office within 24 hours (excluding weekends). If you do not hear from us please check you email bulk and spam folders, and if our mail is going there please let us know. If not, and you have not heard from us, please get in touch. Please give your payment details so that we can track your registration.

