

## The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching

Credit hours: 3.0

Instructor, Dawn Potter

Dates: June 22–26, 2014

### Contact:

The Frost Place

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### *Course Description*

The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching brings together hard-working classroom teachers and highly skilled poet/teachers to share time-tested approaches to making poetry an essential element of the classroom. Both graduate and continuing education credit are available in partnership with Plymouth State University.

### *General Course Requirements*

Attendance at all sessions of the conference is mandatory. This includes the morning sharing sessions, the visiting poet presentations, the afternoon writing sessions, the evening readings, and the wrap-up session on Thursday morning. As is the case with all conference participants, students taking the conference for graduate credit will need to prepare a presentation about a unit or project on poetry to share in one of the morning sessions. Typically this is a lesson that has worked well in the classroom and whose practice can be explained readily to other teachers.

### *Specific Course Requirements*

Each student will hand in a response journal for the entire conference's proceedings. This journal should cover each session, presentation, and reading. Journal entries should focus on how the material can be used in classroom teaching and what new strategies the student can envision. The response journal should include the poetry writing the student does every afternoon. It should also include responses to at least one specific poem by each of the visiting poets. Consulting the poets' books will facilitate this requirement (see *required reading*).

In addition, each student will write up an action plan for a specific project or unit in poetry to be implemented in the student's own classroom. This plan should cover the entire range of instructional strategies, including any pre-testing as well as how the project is presented to the students, its objectives, its learning outcomes, and its assessment. This plan should be based on specific pedagogy strategies presented during the course of the conference.

Reference to Wormser and Cappella's *A Surge of Language: Teaching Poetry Day by Day* may be helpful here (see *Recommended Resources*).

***Required Reading***

Teresa Carson, *My Crooked House* (available May 2014)

Dawn Potter, *Same Old Story* (available March 2014)

Iain Haley Pollock, *Spit Back a Boy*

Meg Kearney, *Home By Now*

***Recommended Resources***

Dawn Potter, *The Conversation: Learning to Be a Poet* (available May 2014)

Dawn Potter, *The Poet's Sourcebook: Writings about Poetry, from the Ancient World to the Present*

Baron Wormser and David Cappella, *A Surge of Language: Teaching Poetry Day by Day*