

Writing 302

“THE ART OF POETRY: REVISION and EXPERIMENTATION

with Writer-in Residence Fall Quarter 2007

ED ROBERSON

Mondays 2:00-3:30 pm



ED ROBERSON

Ed Roberson is the author of seven volumes of poetry, including *Voices Cast Out to Talk Us In*, winner of the Iowa Poetry Prize; *Just In: Word of Navigational Change: New and Selected Work*; *Atmosphere Conditions*, a National Poetry Series winner; and his most recent book, *City Eclogue*. His honors include a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writer's Award.

This class will look at revision and innovation as a continuum. The format will be a mix of readings, lectures, and workshop. Our goals will be:

- *To write, in terms of the student's currently established work, a formally innovative poem.
- *To study how we use the revision process of the innovative poem to stay consistent with the original impulse, to experiment, and to question.
- *To develop a sense of revision as experimentation and as possible innovation rather than simply tidying up or polishing.

I tend to respond to the direction I find students going in the class, but I hope to follow generally the sequence below.

- I. What is experiment? A look at a couple of historic manifestoes.
- II. What is innovation? If it's work that is the basis of developing new work: the marketing model or the scientific method of basic research? Look at canon making. Look at a "revolution" and the response in the arts as innovation.
- III. What are the currently observed formalities in your own writing? Look at ars poetica of writers important to you; write your own poetic statement.
- IV. What **don't** you do? Collaboration with classmate as your evil twin, your "alternative life style" sister, your inner foreigner.
- V. Is there a way to do what you don't do by way of doing what you do?? Is this possible?
- VI. Writing the innovative poem by revision.
- VII. Further out along the continuum: writing the innovative poem by experiment.