

**Course & Contact Information:**

**Course Date(s)**: September 21st, 2024  
**Course Meeting Days & Time: Saturday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Instructor**: Anthony Gabriel

Accessing and Assessing the Abstract

A painting of a person with black and white lines

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Oil and ink on paper, Franz Kline, *Untitled*, 1947

**Course Description:**

Poetry is a medium that relies on abstraction and dealing with abstract conceptions such as, emotions and feeling, ideas, beliefs and concepts. Though poetry can and does rely on the concrete, it is rooted in places and spaces where we are often looking deep within ourselves or something else and trying to understand what it is that we find there. Though it’s easy to look at poetry as such, it becomes much harder to get those abstractions and concepts across in ways that can feel real, relatable, and impactful to others. Poems are paradoxes that we haven’t unlocked, because what else are paradoxes but abstract concepts.

**Course Takeaways:**

* To be able to look more closely at your own poetry and observe where moments of abstraction aren’t fully fleshed out or realized
* To be able to determine when concrete images better enhance and actualize abstract concepts or ideas
* To be able to look at what the true paradox of a poem is and what that means in terms of imagery

**Course Materials:**

*The instructor will provide a selection of the following poems from poets:*

John AshberyVictoria Chang

Ada Limón Mei Mei Berssenbrugge

Richard Siken

Nikki Wallschlaeger

**Instructor Bio:**

Anthony Gabriel is a poet who received his MFA at New Mexico State University, where he also served as the poetry editor of the literary magazine *Puerto Del Sol.*He currently lives in Denton, Texas with his wife and two kids and is pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of North Texas. His work can be found in, *The Red Rock Review, Beaver Mag, Swamp Ape Review* and *The Shore,* among others.