THE SPOKEN WORD
HU2540.R01, SPRING 2012
Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:05-4:20pm
EERC 218

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Study of spoken and/or performed literatures, staged and paged, including, but not limited to oral tradition, story telling, poetry, spoken work, hip-hop, rap, screenplay, and drama.

COURSE INFORMATION
- Professor: M. Bartley Seigel (Matt)
- Professor Email: mbartley@umn.edu
- Office Hours By Appointment
- Required Texts (6): Take The Mic, Smith; Word Warriors, Olson; Spoken Word Revolution, Eleveld; Elephant Engine High Dive Revival, Mojgani; Book Of Rhymes, Bradley; [PANK]5.

COURSE POLICIES
- Showing up on time for every class, adequately completing the required coursework on deadline, and conducting one's self in a generally professional manner earns a C. Evaluation of all coursework and grades will be determined thrice throughout the semester during scheduled conferences (see course calendar below).
- A note on attendance:

  Did I Miss Anything by Tom Wayman

  Nothing. When we realized you weren't here
  we sat with our hands folded on our desks
  in silence, for the full two hours

  Everything. I gave an exam worth
  40 percent of the grade for this term
  and assigned some reading due today
  on which I'm about to hand out a quiz
  worth 50 percent.

  Nothing. None of the content of this course
  has value or meaning
  Take as many days off as you like:
  any activities we undertake as a class
  I assure you will not matter either to you or me
  and are without purpose

  Everything. A few minutes after we began last time
  a shaft of light suddenly descended and an angel
  or other heavenly being appeared
and revealed to us what each woman or man must do
to attain divine wisdom in this life and the hereafter
This is the last time the class will meet
before we disperse to bring the good news to all people on earth

Nothing. When you are not present
how could something significant occur?

Everything. Contained in this classroom
is a microcosm of human experience
assembled for you to query and examine and ponder
This is not the only place such an opportunity has been gathered

but it was one place

And you weren't here

- A second note on attendance: Nothing late will be accepted, there is no “make up” after a deadline has passed, and lectures will not be repeated during office hours.
- Lying, cheating, stealing, wheedling, groveling, or otherwise behaving in ways contrary to how one would wish to be treated themselves is strictly prohibited.
- Planning ahead accordingly is strongly encouraged.
- Passage takes its toll.

COURSEWORK
- Read (25%). Readings will be assigned in class. Students will be expected to demonstrate reading competency during conferences.
- Write (25%). Students are expected to write 50 poems over the course of the term. Poems should be written longhand in a composition notebook. Progress on the poetry will be evaluated during conferences.
- Orals (25%). Memorize and perform poetry 3 times over the course of the term. Only 1 poem may be “short” (10 lines or less); 1 poem may be repeated (excluding the “short” poem); At least one performance must be of an original poem composed during the course by the student.
- Participate (25%). All of the above plus attendance, engagement, enthusiasm, contribution, and citizenship.

COURSE CALENDAR
All reading and writing will be scheduled in class; students should attend. Major deadlines are outlined below.

- Monday, January 30: Orals.
- Wednesday, February 1: Orals.
- Monday, February 6: Student Evaluation/Grade Conferences; Notebooks Due.
- Wednesday, February 7: No class, AWP.
- Monday, March 5 & Wednesday, March 7: No class, Spring Break.
- Monday, March 12: Orals.
- Wednesday, March 14: Orals.
- Monday, March 19: Student Evaluation/Grade Conferences; Notebooks Due.
- Wednesday, April 11: Orals.
- Monday, April 16: Orals.
- Wednesday, April 18: Student Evaluation/Grade Conferences; Notebooks Due.