

NYU Writers in Florence 2019  
Mark Bibbins  
Poetry Workshop

William Carlos Williams noted that a poem is “a small (or large) machine made out of words.” Sometimes machines run smoothly and efficiently; sometimes they overheat, break down, sprout wings (Wallace Stevens: “a poem is a pheasant”). During our sessions we will look closely (and from a distance) at the things that make your machines work, from technical considerations like line breaks and punctuation (or lack thereof), to more ephemeral concerns such as tone or meaning (or lack thereof). We will embrace chance and strangeness in our discussions, as well as in outside readings and prompts. No actual pheasants will be harmed during this workshop, although we may rough up some machines.

There is no required textbook for this class; handouts will be provided.

Grades are based on attendance, class participation, and timely completion of assignments (all weighted equally)