



School of Writing, Languages & Cultures  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**EN 355-01**  
**CRN: 20051**  
**Term:** January 2026

### General Course Information

**Course Title:** Global Haiku Traditions  
**Class:** EN335-01  
**CRN:** 20051  
**Term:** January 2026  
**Dates/Time:** ONLINE synchronous: 6:30-7:00pm – 1/5, 1/8, 1/12, 1/15  
**Dates/Time:** ONLINE asynchronous: 1/5 – 1/16  
**Location:** online  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Web Site:** <<http://www.brooksbookshaiku.com/MillikinHaiku/courses/globalJan2026/>>

### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Randy M. Brooks  
**Office:** Shilling 434  
**Phone:** (217) 358-1294  
**Email:** [rbrooks@millikin.edu](mailto:rbrooks@millikin.edu)  
**Office Hours:** continuous email or zoom by appointment

### Course Description:

#### PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

### Course Description:

**Global Haiku Traditions** examines the origins and spread of Japanese poetics from Japan around the world, with a special focus on the adaptation of haiku into other cultures and languages. This course explores the role of haiku as a social literary art—both the art of reading and art of writing haiku emphasize the importance of shared collaborative aesthetic experiences (shared acts of the imagination).

There is a very active global haiku community of writers, editors, scholars and associations celebrating participation in this literary art. A special feature of the course is that students will study leading international poets, editors and scholars of contemporary haiku. We will study the history of haiku and related poetics in Japan, and then examine the contemporary internalization of haiku in various cultures. Students complete both an analytical study of a contemporary haiku poet or issue in the haiku community as well as various creative projects connecting haiku to other arts. There are numerous web resources available for this course located at: <<http://www.brooksbookshaiku.com/MillikinHaiku/courses/>>.

### Course Learning Goals, Outcomes & Objectives:

Students will explore the history and practice Japanese haikai poetics and learn about the role of this literary art in both Japanese and contemporary American culture. Students will compare authors and approaches to haiku from both Japanese and American traditions. Students will develop their professional writing abilities, as academic research writers through a study of a contemporary haiku writer. The haikai arts emphasize the

power of concise writing, in which silence and things not said may be as important as the things said. Therefore, study of the haikai arts helps students develop exact, precise writing skills. Also, since haiku is the art of suggestion and connotation, it requires an integration of reading and writing abilities.

Haikai arts stress the importance of an active reader to “finish” the haiku in their own mind. The active response to a haiku is to share your imagined response, or to create another haiku or extension of the original haiku. This process of connecting personal experiences, memories and feelings to the haiku by others helps students explore their own lives, memories, feelings and values. As students practice the art of reading and writing haiku, they discover that the haikai arts are not the exclusive domain of professional writers. They discover that haiku is a possible means of developing a personal life of meaning and value from their own reading responses and through the writing of their own original haiku.

### **University Studies Learning Goals:**

This course also has been approved to fulfill the **Creative Arts** requirement for University Studies that students will:

1. investigate discipline-specific creative processes;
2. analyze the art using discipline-appropriate vocabulary; and
3. evaluate how art relates to an individual life of meaning and value.

Key artifacts for assessment include: (1) a collection of original haiku, (2) a reader-response essay on haiku, and (3) final reflections on the impact of haiku on professional and personal life.

This course also has been approved to fulfill the **International Cultures and Structures** requirement for University Studies that students will be able to:

1. Explore international cultures and/or social structures.
2. Compare culturally diverse points of view through examination of primary sources.
3. Demonstrate a critical awareness of cultural diversity.

Key artifacts for assessment include: (1) reader responses comparisons of Japanese and English haiku poets, (2) writing original linked verses following Japanese traditions, and (3) a reflection on Japanese haiku poetics.

### **English Department & College of Arts & Sciences Learning Goals:**

This course also fulfills an international literature course for English majors, and a literary studies course for the distribution requirement in the College of Arts & Sciences.

## **LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Online (synchronous and asynchronous) Immersion Course

As both a synchronous and asynchronous online immersion course **there are four required ZOOM class meetings Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:00 pm 1/5, 1/8, 1/12, 1/15 (each 30-minute meeting is worth 20 points)**. The rest of the assignments can be completed as asynchronous assignments based on posted due dates.

Students will engage as readers and writers in the haiku tradition, as well as researchers and critics of other writers. Also, the final individual project asks each student to make connections to another area of expertise (whatever discipline), and to complete a final project that is a multidisciplinary product and presentation.

## Moodle Course & Web Site

This course is a distance delivery course. Reading resources and peer student work and the grade book are provided through Millikin University course management software, Moodle. You will need to log onto Moodle to download most reading assignments. There is also a course web site with an assignment blog at:

<<http://www.brooksbookshaiku.com/MillikinHaiku/courses/globalJan2025/>>.

The course requires frequent submissions of written responses and haiku writing at attachments to the instructor, Randy Brooks at [rbrooks@millikin.edu](mailto:rbrooks@millikin.edu).

E-mail – The email system on campus is a vital communications tool and may be used by the student, professor and other school officials in the delivery of information and instructions. Students are responsible for routinely checking their Millikin University e-mail for schedule changes, assignments, and/or other messages from the professor(s) or university representatives. Faculty members are instructed to use their Millikin University email address for communication purposes. Students must follow University email rules at all times; these can be found at: <<http://it.millikin.edu/>>. Failure to use the email system in accordance with University policies may result in revocation of email privileges.

## Course Materials from the department or professor:

There are numerous web resources available for this course located at

<<http://www.brooksbookshaiku.com/MillikinHaiku>>

The class web site is located at:

<<http://www.brooksbookshaiku.com/MillikinHaiku/courses/globalJan2026/>>

## Landmark Events & Due Dates

Haiku Reader Response Essay due midnight 1/15/2025 – submitted by email

Haiku Collection Chapbook (due midnight 1/16/2025 – email version submitted

Final Reflection 1 (due midnight 1/18/2025 – Review essay of 5 favorite haiku you have written

Final Reflection 2 (due midnight 1/18/2025 – Reflection essay on value of knowing haiku

See the more complete schedule of events and assignments on the course web site learning blog calendar:

<<http://www.brooksbookshaiku.com/MillikinHaiku/courses/globalJan2025/assignments.html>>

## COURSE SCHEDULE & PLANS

### Course Organization

Keep in mind that the online immersion course is designed for completion of daily work for three weeks. The course meets SYNCHRONOUSLY by ZOOM four times:

6:30-7:00pm – 1/5, 1/8, 1/12, 1/15

For a complete guide, see the course assignments blog at:

<<http://www.brooksbookshaiku.com/MillikinHaiku/courses/globalJan2025/assignments.html>>

This course is organized as a continuous mix of reading haiku, writing responses to haiku, writing original haiku, collaborative writing of linked verse, and completing creative projects related to the intertwined arts of reading and writing haiku.

When referring to a haiku by any author for any assignment, please use the following means of citation. Always type the entire haiku (DO NOT CHANGE CAPITAL LETTERS or WORD SPACING!). Then include the author and an abbreviation of the publication source. For example, here is a haiku by Peggy Lyles from her book, *To Hear the Rain*:

I brush  
my mother's hair  
the sparks

Peggy Lyles, *To Hear the Rain*, 93

### HOW LEARNING WILL BE ASSESSED

#### Assignments & Semester Grading Weight

Informal Reader Response Writing & Haiku Writing (most classes) .....	20 points / per day
ZOOM meetings .....	20 points / per meeting
Contemporary Haiku Reader Response Essay .....	100 points
Haiku Collection .....	100 points
Haiku Collection Poetics Preface on YOUR Art of Writing Haiku .....	20 points
Final Reflection 1 .....	20 points
Final Reflection 2 .....	20 points

#### CARS Assessment Artifact Assignments:

Contemporary Haiku Essay (mid-term) .....	100 points
Haiku Collection (paper booklet & by email) .....	100 points
Final Reflection 1 (ethical reasoning on value of haiku) .....	20 points

#### ICS Assessment Artifact Assignments:

1 – Reader response comparison of haiku by Japanese & an English poets .....	20 points
2 – Reader responses to Basho's haiku and writing new haiku based on his poetics .....	20 points
3 – Compare 3 Japanese approaches to haiku (from HAIKU GUY novel) .....	20 points

ALL assignments are to be turned in as digital copies by email attachment to

[rbrooks@millikin.edu](mailto:rbrooks@millikin.edu)

Please use RTF or DOC formats. Ask for help on file formats if needed.

## Grading Scale & Methods:

A = "exceptional" or "outstanding" work

B = "above average" Effort was put into the work as required.

C = "average" Note that "average" does not mean you completed the basic requirements as laid out in the directions. Students did the minimum effort required.

D = "below average" This effort did not even meet the minimum requirements or was sub-par.

F = "below college standards" Very little effort went into the assignment.

Course grades will be determined as follows: (A+=100, A=95, A-=90, B+=88, B=85, B-=80, C+=78, C=75, C-=70, D+=68, D=65, F=0)

## Attendance & Late Assignments

This is an online class, but there are due dates for assignments to spread your homework over the four weeks of the course.

Students who do not engage in daily online assignments will be academically withdrawn from the course. If you know you will need to miss a day or two, please let me know ahead of time.

## MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY STUDENT GUIDELINES FOR ALL COURSES

Full University-wide policies may be found at the following link: [www.millikin.edu/syllabus-policy-language](http://www.millikin.edu/syllabus-policy-language) or via QR code:



These policies focus upon the following areas:

- Technical, Classroom, And College Policy Information
  - University Commitment to Student Success
  - Academic Integrity Standards
  - Disruptive Behavior Policy
  - Distance Delivery Components
  - Dropping a Course and the University Withdrawal Policy
  - Course Evaluations
  -
- Millikin University Well Being Guidelines
  - Creating an Equitable and Inclusive Learning Environment
  - Title IX, Sexual Misconduct, and Gender-Based Violence
  - Disabilities Accommodations Policy
  - Gender Expression and Identity
  - Bias Incidents or Discriminatory Practices
  - Student Well-Being