**Rivers Into Islands: An Introduction to Illinois Poet John Knoepfle**

**March 11 to April 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Instructor: John Palen**

**Syllabus**

**Week 1:** Overview of John Knoepfle’s life and work. General characteristics of his poetry. Discussion of some early poems.

**Week 2:** Knoepfle as a poet of “the present moment,” history, and the “found poem.”

**Week 3:** Knoepfle as a translator, and a poet of religion and social activism.

**Week 4:** Knoepfle as a poem of place. Knoepfle in his own voice. Discussion: How can the concept of “rivers into islands” apply to John Knoepfle’s poetic output, and what does it suggest about how we might live our lives.

**Online resources to the poetry of John Knoepfle**

**Links to poems, many of which will be discussed in the course**

<http://www.johnknoepfle.com/poetry.shtml>

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/poetlaureate/Pages/knoepfle_latewinter.aspx>

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/poetlaureate/Pages/knoepfle_bath.aspx>

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/poetlaureate/Pages/knoepfle_skibbereen.aspx>

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/poetlaureate/Pages/knoepfle_prayer.aspx>

https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/poetlaureate/Pages/knoepfle\_flattop.aspx

**A biography, from his website**

<http://www.johnknoepfle.com/biography.shtml>

**Bibliography, from his website**

<http://www.johnknoepfle.com/biography.shtml>

**News articles**

<https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/2013/01/09/poet-john-knoepfle-celebrates-career/44256669007/>

<https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/long-life-and-poetry/Content?oid=11482041>

https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/2013/01/09/poet-john-knoepfle-celebrates-career/44256669007/

<https://www.illinoistimes.com/springfield/john-knoepfle-feb-4-1923-nov-16-2019/Content?oid=11648057>