

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
London Ontario
The Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of English and Writing Studies

EN 2230 650: Studies in Poetics

EN 2230 introduces issues and concepts in the analysis and theory of poetry from different historical periods. The course tries to foster the student's appreciation of the poem as a work of art, and to help the student understand the poetic content encountered in other senior English courses. The course also includes a number of prose essays that introduce students to a variety of approaches (e.g., formalist, structuralist, psychoanalytical) to the subject of poetic theory. Both the weekly readings and the written assignments are devoted to close readings of a limited number of poems; students will become familiar with techniques of versification and rhetoric, and they will refine their analytical skills through a number of brief analyses and one essay.

Textbooks

Adams, Stephen. *Poetic Designs*. Peterborough: Broadview, 1997.

Course Package. Available from the Western Bookstore

Ferguson, Margaret, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. Shorter 5th edition. New York: Norton, 2004.

Assignments

Discussion Questions (5 x 3%)	15%
Scansion Exercise	10%
Mid-Term Test	15%
Essay	20%
Final Examination	40%

Assignment Format

All graded assignments will be assigned on Monday morning of the week that corresponds to the unit number, and they will be due at 11 p.m. on the following Sunday. The essay must conform to MLA guidelines. The graded discussion questions and the mid-term test must be double spaced and written in formal English, but, not containing references to secondary sources, they do not require the scholarly apparatus necessary for the essay. The mid-term test will not be written at an examination center; you will write it at home, and, as with the graded discussion questions, you will have six days to complete it.

Late Policy

Unless an extension is negotiated with me before the due date, late assignments will receive a grade no higher than 65%, and they will not receive comments.

Final Examination / Final Grade

STUDENTS MUST PASS BOTH TERM WORK AND THE FINAL EXAMINATION (IN COURSES WITH FINAL EXAMINATIONS) IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. STUDENTS WHO FAIL THE FINAL EXAMINATION (REGARDLESS OF THEIR TERM MARK) AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE.

Statement on Academic Offences

The statement: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student’s Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

The full policy is set out here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

E-mail Policy

To guarantee a prompt response (i.e., within twenty-four hours), please contact me through OWL. You can contact me at my Western e-mail account (tfreebor@uwo.ca), but I cannot guarantee a prompt response. Should you contact me through e-mail, please use your Western account. If you contact me through a non-Western account, you will not receive a response.

Unit 1: Introduction to Reading Poetry

Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” (168-9)

Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd” (121)

Brooks, “The Heresy of Paraphrase” (course package)

Unit 2: Narrative, Dramatic, and Lyric poetry

“The Unquiet Grave” (92-3)

Browning, “My Last Duchess,” (643-4)

Wyatt, “They Flee from Me” (104)

Adams, Appendix 1: “The Terminology of Rhyming”

Moldenhauer, “The Voices of Seduction in ‘To His Coy Mistress’: A Rhetorical Analysis” (course package)

Unit 3: Prosody I: Scansion

Housman, “Here Dead Lie We Because We Did Not Choose” (765)

Roethke, “My Papa’s Waltz” (955)

Herrick, “Delight in Disorder” (226)

Adams, “Meter and Rhythm” (1-36)

Abrams, “Introduction: Orientation of Critical Theories” (course package)

Discussion Question 1 (3%)

Unit 4: Prosody II: Iambic Pentameter

Dryden, “To the Memory of Mr. Oldham” (309)

Swift, “A Description of a City Shower” (333-4)

Pope, “The Triumph of Dulness” (389; Adams, 207-11)

Milton, “The Verse” and “Invocation” (276-8; Adams, 205-7)

Yeats, “The Second Coming” (774)

Easthope, “Iambic Pentameter” (course package)

Scansion Exercise (10%)

Unit 5: Prosody III: Accentual, Trochaic, Anapestic, and Quantitative Meters

Wilbur, “Junk” (1023-4)

Cowper, "Lines Written during a Period of Insanity" (433-4)
Blake, "Introduction" (441)
Hardy, "The Ruined Maid" (747)
Adams, "Beyond Iambic Pentameter" (37-69)
Empson, Passages from *Seven Types of Ambiguity* (course package)

Discussion Question 2 (3%)

Unit 6: Figures of Speech I: Schemes

Sidney, sonnet 47 (course package)
Blake, "London" (448)
Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" (684-9)
Adams, "The Schemes" (105-32)
Frye, "The Archetypes of Literature" (course package)

Unit 7: Figures of Speech II: Tropes

Dickinson, "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" (726)
Lewis, "Come, live with me and be my love" (926)
Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale" (582-4)
Adams, "The Tropes" (232-47)
Lakoff and Turner, "Life, Death, and Time" (course package)

Discussion Question 3 (3%)

Unit 8: Figures of Speech III: Tropes

Shakespeare, sonnet 73 (173-4)
Donne, "The Canonization" (194-5)
Shirley, "Dirge" (course package)
Wordsworth, "Resolution and Independence" (473-6)
Frost, "The Silken Tent" (806)

Mid-Term Test (15%)

Unit 9: Various Forms I: Elegiac Quatrain, Rhyme Royal, Ottava Rima

Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (410-13)
Wordsworth, "Resolution and Independence" (473-6)
Byron, "Fragment on the Back of the Ms. of Canto I" (512)
Yeats, "Sailing to Byzantium" (827-8)
Adams, "Stanza and Form" (71-88)
Bloom, "Introduction: A Meditation on Priority, and a Synopsis" (course package)

Discussion Question 4 (3%)

Unit 10: Various Forms II: The Sonnet

Shakespeare, sonnet 130 (177)
Wordsworth, "Scorn Not the Sonnet" (486)
Millay, "I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed" (887-8)

Owen "Anthem for Doomed Youth" (889-90)

Adams, "The Sonnet" (88-92)

Gilbert and Gubar, "Introduction: Gender, Creativity, and the Woman Poet" (course package)

Unit 11: Various Forms III: The Ode

Collins, "Ode on the Poetical Character" (414-15)

Collins, "Ode to Evening" (416-17)

Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale" (582-4)

Adams, "The Ode" (101-3)

Culler, "Apostrophe" (course package)

Essay due (20%)

Unit 12: Various Forms IV: Free Verse

Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry" (684-9)

Williams, "The Red Wheelbarrow," "Portrait of a Lady" (829-30)

Pound, "In a Station of the Metro" (846)

O'Hara, "The Day Lady Died" (1075-6)

Adams, "Form in Free Verse" (149-98)

Culler, "The Poetics of the Lyric" (course package)

Discussion Question 5 (3%)