

Department of English & Writing Studies

**EN 2230F 001: Studies in Poetics
Fall 2015**

Location: Talbot College 203

Time: Tuesday 12:30-1:30, Thursday 12:30-2:30

Professor Tim Freeborn

Email: Please use OWL Message

Office: Lawson Hall 3270

Office Hours: Monday 4-6 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Kevin Shaw

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Office: AHB 2G28

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

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 prose essays that introduce students to a variety of approaches 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, and students will become familiar with techniques of versification.

Textbooks

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

Cleanth Brooks. *The Well-Wrought Urn: Studies in the Structure of Poetry*.
(Any edition will suffice.)

Other required readings, unless otherwise noted, will appear on our OWL course site.

Assignments

Scansion Exercise (Oct. 27)	10%
Mid-Term Test (Nov. 5)	20%
Essay (due Nov. 26)	30%
Final Examination	40%

Learning Outcomes

This course aims to help students

- to refine their close-reading skills;
- to enhance their critical vocabulary for reading and thinking about poetry;
- to identify, understand, and explain stanzaic forms, meters, and figured language;
- to identify the conventions of the different genres, subgenres, and modes;
- to evaluate the relative merits of different critical approaches to reading poetry;
- to develop confidence using the above-mentioned knowledge for analyzing and writing about poetry.

Assignment Format

The essay must conform to MLA guidelines (e.g., it must be double spaced and cite sources scrupulously and correctly). It must be submitted in both paper and electronic versions (the former in class on the due date and the latter through our OWL course site). The mid-term test will be written in class on Thursday, November 5.

Late Policy

Unless an extension is negotiated with me before the due date, late assignments will be penalized 3% per day, 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 using OWL Message. 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.

Class Schedule

WEEK ONE

Thursday, September 10
Brooks, “The heresy of paraphrase”
Housman, “Here Dead Lie We”

WEEK TWO

Tuesday, September 15
Brooks, “The language of paradox”
Donne, “The Canonization”
Adams, “Stanza and Form” (72-6), Appendix 1: “The Terminology of Rhyming”
Thursday, September 17
Culler, “Why Lyric?” *PMLA* 123.1 (2008). 201-6 (Western Libraries)
Roberts. “Poem (We must uprising O my people)”
Williams, Poem XXII of *Spring and All*
Notley, “The Anthology.” (poetryfoundation.org)

WEEK THREE

Tuesday September 22
Adams, “Meter and Rhythm” (1-36, 61-4)
Jonson, “On Sir Cod the Perfumed”
Coleridge, “On a Volunteer Singer”
Cunningham, “Memoir”
Dickinson, “If ever the lid gets off my head”
Thursday, September 24
Shelley, “England in 1819” (poetryfoundation.org)
Prior, “A Critical Moment”
Behn, “The Cabal at Nickey Nackeys”

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday, September 29
Brooks, “The light symbolism in ‘L’allegro-il penseroso”
Milton, “L’Allegro,” “Il Penseroso”
Adams, “Beyond Iambic Pentameter” (50-61)
Thursday, October 1
Brown, “‘The Melting Voice Through Mazes Running’: The Dissolution of
Borders in L’allegro and Il Penseroso.” *Milton Studies* 40 (Western Libraries)

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday, October 6
Brooks, “What does poetry communicate?”
Herrick, “Corinna’s going a-Maying”
Thursday, October 8
Marcus, “Churchman among the Maypoles: Herrick and the *Hesperides*.”
Adams, “Form in Free Verse” (149-67. 179-88)
Loy, “Love Songs”

WEEK SIX

Tuesday, October 13
Brooks, “The case of Miss Arabella Fermor”
Pope, *The Rape of the Lock*
Thursday, October 15
Deborah C. Payne. “Pope and the War Against Coquettes; or, Feminism and *The Rape of the Lock* Reconsidered—Yet Again.” *The Eighteenth Century* 32.1 (1991). 3-24
(Western Libraries)

WEEK SEVEN

Tuesday, October 20
Brooks, “Gray’s storied urn”
Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
Thursday, October 22
Tichborne, “Tichborne’s Elegy (‘My prime of youth is but a frost of cares’)” (poetryfoundation.org)
Hardy, “The Darkling Thrush” (poetryfoundation.org)
O’Hara, “The Day Lady Died” (poetryfoundation.org)

WEEK EIGHT

Tuesday, October 27
Scansion Test (10%)
Thursday, October 29
NO CLASS: FALL STUDY BREAK

WEEK NINE

Tuesday, November 3
Adams, “The Sonnet” (88-92)
Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* 47 (“What, have I thus betrayed my liberty?”)
(poetryfoundation.org)
Millay, “I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed”
Thursday, November 5
Mid-Term Test (20%)

WEEK TEN

Tuesday, November 10
Brooks, “Wordsworth and the paradox of the imagination”
Wordsworth, “Ode: intimations of immortality from recollections of early childhood”
Adams, “The Ode” (101-3)
Thursday, November 12
Levinson, “The Intimations ode: a timely utterance”
Collins, “Ode to Evening” (poetryfoundation.org)
Auden, “The Horatians”

WEEK ELEVEN

Tuesday, November 17
Brooks, “Keats’s sylvan historian: history without footnotes”
Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
Thursday, November 19
Ashbery, “Ode to Bill”
Guest, “Multiplicity” (<https://jacket2.org/poems/three-poems-barbara-guest>)

WEEK TWELVE

Tuesday, November 24
Brooks, “The motivation of Tennyson's weeper”
Tennyson, “Tears, Idle Tears”
Thursday, November 26
Stein, “One. Carl Van Vechten”
Tonks, “To a Certain Young Man”
ESSAY DUE

WEEK THIRTEEN

Tuesday, December 1
Brooks, “Yeats’s great rooted blossomer”
Yeats, “Among School Children”
Thursday, December 3
Vendler, “Ottava Rima”
Wyatt, “They Flee from Me” (poetryfoundation.org)

WEEK FOURTEEN

Tuesday, December 8
Exam Review