

Department of English & Writing Studies

Studies in Poetics
English 2230F (001)
Fall 2016

Instructor: Professor Allan Pero
apero@uwo.ca | Arts and Humanities 3G22
Office Hours: Wed 12:30-2:30; Thurs 11:30-
12:30 (or by appointment)

Course Location: AHB 1B08

Date/Time: Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm,
Thursday 1:30-3:30pm

Teaching Assistant: Emily Hoven

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description and Objectives

This course explores different concepts and theories of poetry across historical periods. While we will be concentrating on genres of poetry and on the poem as an aesthetic form, we will spend a significant portion of the course thinking about the theoretical and critical problems poetry presents to us. One of the goals of the course is to provide several of the necessary tools to write thoughtfully about poetry (e.g. the sonnet, the ode, the dramatic monologue, and the elegy) in senior English courses. 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, poetic terms, and receive an introduction to different theories of poetry.

Course Materials**Textbooks:**

Adams, Stephen. *Poetic Designs*. Peterborough: Broadview, 1997.
Ferguson, Margaret, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. Shorter 5th edition. New York: Norton, 2004.

Methods of Evaluation**Assignments:**

Class Contribution	10%
Memory Test (October 13)	10%
Response Paper (October 20)	10%
Scansion Test (November 1)	10%
Essay 2000-2500 words (December 6)	25%
Final Examination	35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Essay Topics will be distributed at the end of September.

You must speak to me or Emily in office hours about your choice of essay topic; we want to know how your work is proceeding, and offer any suggestions that will help you focus your argument. Your intellectual progress is IMPORTANT to us (and should be to you).

Memory Test: You will be expected to memorize ONE of the Shakespeare sonnets we are studying that particular week. The choice is yours.

Response Papers are open. They are opportunities for you to explore briefly some issue or poem; they are also opportunities for you to write a creative response – literary or poetic -- to a poem, genre, technique, or concept we have discussed in class. In addition, a response paper can be the tentative first steps toward the longer essay. Remember, they are to be 750 words MAXIMUM! No Magnum Opus required.

Late Penalty: For any assignment worth less than 10%, any reasonable request for an extension will be granted. (For assignments worth 10% or more, please see Academic Accommodation below).

Learning Targets:

This course aims to help students to:

- refine their close-reading skills;
- enhance their critical and theoretical vocabulary for reading poetry;
- identify, understand, and explain stanzaic forms, meters, and figured language;
- identify the conventions of the different genres, subgenres, and modes;
- 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 hard copy. Do keep an electronic copy until your essay is returned.

E-mail Policy: To guarantee a prompt response (i.e., within twenty-four hours), please contact me using my Western e-mail account (apero@uwo.ca). Should you contact me through e-mail, please use your Western account.

Timetable:

Thursday, September 8
Introduction

Tuesday, September 13

What is Poetry?

Passive Aggressive, Galvin (handout)

Metaphysical Conceit; Stanzaic Form

Thursday, September 15

Donne, "The Canonization," "The Flea"

Adams, "Stanza and Form" (72-6),

Appendix 1: "The Terminology of Rhyming"

Tuesday, September 20

Wyatt, "The Long Love, That In My Thought
Doth Harbour"

Marvell, "The Definition of Love"

Meter and Rhythm

Thursday, September 22

Adams, "Meter and Rhythm" (1-36, 61-4)

Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

Tennyson, "Break, Break, Break"

Tuesday, September 27

Poe, "The Raven"

Dickinson, "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain"

Thursday, September 29

Adams, "Beyond Iambic Pentameter" (50-61)

Milton, "L'Allegro," "Il Penseroso"

Tuesday, October 4

cummings, "anyone lived in a pretty how town"

Roethke, "My Papa's Waltz"

Free Verse

Thursday, October 6

Adams, "Form in Free Verse" (149-67; 179-88)

Moore, "Poetry"

Williams, "Danse Russe," "This Is Just to Say"

Pound, "The Garden," "In the Station of the
Metro"

Tuesday, October 11

Stevens, "The Snow Man," "The Emperor of
Ice Cream"

The Sonnet (Memory Test: 10%)

Thursday, October 13

Adams, "The Sonnet" (88-92)

Shakespeare, Sonnets 3, 18, 29, 116

Tuesday, October 18

cummings, "next to of course god america i"

The Elegy

**Thursday, October 20 (RESPONSE PAPER
(750 words) DUE: 10%)**

Milton, "Lycidas"

Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

Hardy, "The Darkling Thrush"

Tuesday, October 25

Auden, "In Memory of W. B. Yeats"

Thursday, October 27 (NO CLASS!)

Scansion Test and Poetry of Spaces

Tuesday, November 1

(SCANSION TEST: 10%)

Thursday, November 3

Gunn, "A Map of the City"

Boland, "That the Science of Cartography Is Limited"

The Ode

Tuesday, November 8

Adams, "The Ode" (101-3)

Keats, "Ode to Melancholy," "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

Thursday, November 10

Ashbery, "Ode to Bill"

Lee, "Persimmons"

Ekphrasis

Tuesday, November 15

Auden, "Musée des Beaux-Arts"

Williams, "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus"

Thursday, November 17

Rich, "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law"

Graham, "At Luca Signorelli's Resurrection of the Body"

Sarah, "Relics"

The Dramatic Monologue

Tuesday, November 22

Tennyson, "Ulysses"

Browning, "The Bishop Orders His Tomb,"

"Porphyria's Lover"

Thursday, November 24

Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

Experimental Poetry

Tuesday, November 29

Williamson, from *Double Exposures* "III," "XXV"

Thursday, December 1

Found poems, Blackout poems (Handout in class)

**Tuesday, December 6 – EXAM REVIEW
(FINAL ESSAY DUE)**

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 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 UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

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

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

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

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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.