

Department of English & Writing Studies

Studies in Poetics
English 2230G (001)
Winter 2017

Instructor: Joshua Schuster
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Office hours: Tues 1:30-2:30; Wed. 3:30-4:30, or by appointment

Class Location: Kresge Building K103

Class Date/Time: Wed 1:30-3:30; Thurs 1:30-2:30

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

This course introduces students to some of the major poems in English literary history and the theoretical tools used to analyze poetics. We will be concentrating on doing attentive close readings of poems together, so class participation will be important. The poems we'll read are among the best that has been thought and said, so we'll get a chance to enjoy the poems while we bring out the nuances of each work. We'll also focus on developing skills in poetics, including understanding some of the basic poetical forms in English, meter and scansion, rhetorical terms used in literary analysis, and big questions about the politics and purposes of poems.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Develop close reading skills by reading some of the most celebrated poems written in English;
- Define and apply key terms and concepts that are widely used in poetics analysis;
- Understand how elements of form and content contribute to the meaning, sensation, and operation of a poem.

Course Materials**Texts:**

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

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

Methods of Evaluation

Midterm	15%	
Final	40%	
Participation	20%	
Final Paper	25%	(4 pages)

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>.

Note: Computers are not allowed in this course.

Final Paper: Topics will be handed out in class. Late essays are not accepted. We will use OWL.

Midterm and Final Exams: The format will include quote identifications, a few short answer questions, and (on the final exam) some short essays that will require you to compare different theorists on a given topic.

Participation: Your participation is central to this class and is a key component of your growth as a student. Participation includes: being involved in class discussion, participating in group work, and putting real energy into all assignments and readings. **Read the texts before the day they are discussed.**

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and obviously counts for your grade in participation. It is imperative to arrive to each class on time. No unexcused absences are permitted (I am not crazy and I do know that problems arise during the semester – but please supply a legitimate written excuse – see Western policy on this). If you miss a certain number of courses, I will warn you, but already you risk getting a zero in participation and/or dropped from the course.

MLA Documentation: Undergraduate research papers written in Arts and Humanities follow the formatting procedures outlined by the Modern Language Association. The complete guide to this format can be found in the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009). This guide can be found On Reserve in the D. B. Weldon Library, call no: LB2369.M57 2009. The Department of English also offers an overview of MLA documentation, at: <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergrad/guidelines.html>

Timetable

Jan. 5 Introduction; What Is Poetry?

William Blake "The Sick Rose"

William Carlos Williams "The Red Wheelbarrow"

Jan. 11 The Sonnet

Keats "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer"

William Shakespeare, sonnets 18, 29, 116, 129, 130

John Donne "I am a little world made cunningly," "Batter my heart, three-personed God"

Stephen Adams "The Sonnet" (88-92)

Jan. 12 William Wordsworth "The World Is Too Much with Us"

Jan. 18 The Ode

Ben Jonson "To Penshurst"

John Keats "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

Adams "The Ode" (101-3)

Jan. 19

Shelley "Ode to the West Wind"

Jan. 25 The Elegy

Thomas Grey "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

Alfred Tennyson "Break, Break, Break"

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

Jan. 26 Frank O'Hara "The Day Lady Died"

Adams "Figures of Speech" (105-132)

Feb. 1 The Pastoral

Christopher Marlowe "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love"

Andrew Marvell "The Mower against Gardens"

Wordsworth "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey"

Feb. 2

Yeats "The Lake Isle of Innisfree"

Robert Duncan "Often I Am Permitted to Return to a Meadow" (handout)

Adams "Figures of Speech" (132-147)

Feb. 8 The Dramatic Speaker

John Donne "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning"

Andrew Marvell "To His Coy Mistress"

Robert Browning "My Last Duchess"

Feb. 9 T. S. Eliot "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

Feb. 15 **midterm**

Feb. 16 Meter and Rhythm

George Herbert "Virtue"

William Blake "The Lamb," "The Tyger"

Adams (Ch. 1, 1-36)

Mar. 1 Ballad Meter

Early Modern Ballad "Sir Patrick Spens"

Christina Rossetti "Song"

Wordsworth "Expostulation and Reply," "The Tables Turned"

Emily Dickinson "I felt a funeral, in my brain"

Adams (37-43)

Mar. 2 Metrical Variations

William Butler Yeats "Sailing to Byzantium"

Mar. 8 Milton "L'Allegro," "Il Penseroso"

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

Mar. 9 Free Verse

William Carlos Williams "Danse Russe"

Robert Creeley "I Know a Man"

Adrienne Rich "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning"

Mar. 15 Lyrical Occasions

Wordsworth "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud"
P. B. Shelley "Ozymandias"
Emily Dickinson "After great pain, a formal feeling comes"
Wallace Stevens "The Snow Man"

Mar. 16 Ekphrasis

W. H. Auden "Musée des Beaux-Arts"

Mar. 22 Animals

John Donne "The Flea"
Christopher Smart "For I will consider my cat Jeffry"
Gerard Manley Hopkins "The Windhover"
D. H. Lawrence "Snake"

Mar. 23 Earth

H.D. "Oread" (handout)
Robinson Jeffers "Shine, Perishing Republic"
visual poetry – Ian Hamilton Finlay (handout)

Mar. 29 Political Poetries

William Blake "London"
P. B. Shelley "England in 1819"
Sterling Brown "Slim in Atlanta"
W. H. Auden "September 1, 1939"

Mar. 30 Allen Ginsberg "A Supermarket in California"

Elizabeth Bishop "Filling Station"

Apr. 5 Avant-Gardes

Charles Bernstein "Of Time and the Line"
John Skelton "Mannerly Margery Milk and Ale"
John Ashbery "Paradoxes and Oxymorons"
Ben Johnson "A Fit of Rhyme against Rhyme"

Apr. 6

review

final paper 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:

Plagiarism constitutes an automatic failure of this course and goes on a student's permanent record of conduct. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me. 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.