

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Studies in Poetics**  
**English 2202F (001)**  
Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Dr. Madeline Bassnett  
AHB 3G02  
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Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-12:30 pm

**Course Location:** FNB 2240

**Course Date/Time:** TU 1:30-2:30 pm,  
TH 1:30-3:30 pm

**Teaching Assistant:** Jeffrey Swim  
[jswim3@uwo.ca](mailto:jswim3@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: TBA

**Antirequisite:** The former English 2230F/G

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or 1042E or both of 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 a diverse selection of poets and poetry across historical periods. We will get hands-on and technical with poems in our examination of the primary components of poetry: meter, rhyme, and rhetorical figures of speech. We will investigate influential poetic genres, such as the sonnet, elegy, and ode, to consider their historical evolution. In our weekly discussions, we will use our developing prosodic, generic, and theoretical skills to read and write thoughtfully about poetry—both within and beyond the classroom. The detailed understanding of the workings and art of poetry that this course offers will (I hope) give students the confidence to enjoy poetry as a lifelong pleasure.

### **Objectives:**

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyse poetry written in a range of styles and forms;
- Understand historical developments in poetics;
- Develop oral- and close-reading skills;
- Use and define key terms and concepts used in poetic analysis;
- Identify and discuss influential poetic forms and genres;
- Read and approach poetry with confidence and pleasure.

## Course Materials

### **Required Texts:**

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

Ferguson, Margaret, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy, eds. *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. Shorter 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Norton, 2004.

## Methods of Evaluation

Participation	10%
Mid-term Test (scansion and terminology)	15%
Memorization and Recitation	10%
Pop Quizzes (5)	5%
Final Paper (2500 words)	25%
Final Exam (3 hours)	<u>35%</u>
	100%

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/Student%20Information.html>.

### **Participation and Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 9 hours of classes, you will lose your participation grade. Regular attendance is required to take the final exam. Successful learning happens only if you attend class, do the readings, and come prepared to participate. The participation grade will take into account attendance AND active involvement in and contribution to class and small group discussions.

### **Mid-term Test:**

This will test your skills in scansion and the ability to define and use poetic terminology.

### **Memorization and Recitation:**

Impress your friends and romance interests! Memorize a poem! Each of you will sign up to memorize and recite a poem for the class. Reading poems with attention to rhythm, tone, and meter is a skill we'll be developing throughout the term. This will be an opportunity for you to practice and perform those skills.

### **Pop Quizzes:**

We will have five surprise quizzes. The quizzes will be based on the week's reading, which includes the assigned material from *Poetic Designs* and the poems themselves. These will consist of 10 questions focusing on details from the poems (e.g. Who is the poem addressed to?) and on terminology and definitions from the text (e.g. What is an elegy?). The top 4 quizzes will count towards 5% of your grade. You must be in class to take the quiz; you will not have an opportunity to take these at a later date. The quizzes are meant to help you keep on top of the material and to prepare you for both the mid-term and the final exam.

**Final Paper:**

Topics for the final paper will be distributed in class on October 19. The paper will be due November 23.

**Final Exam:**

There will be a three-hour written exam during the December examination period. It will include short answer questions, identification questions, and a sight-poem essay.

**Timetable:**

- Sept. 7      Introduction: What is Poetry?**
- William Carlos Williams "This Is Just to Say" (830)
  - Carol Ann Duffy "Warming Her Pearls" (1242)
  - Marianne Moore "Poetry" (856)
- 12      Stanza and Line**
- Adams, "Stanza and Form" (71-84); "Meter and Rhythm" (26-30)
  - N. Scott Momaday "Two Figures" (1159)
  - Gwendolyn Brooks "We Real Cool" (999-1000)
  - W.S. Merwin "Separation" (1086)
  - Gertrud Schnackenberg "Supernatural Love" (1240-1)
  - Thom Gunn "The Missing" (1103-4)
- 14**
- Walt Whitman "Cavalry Crossing a Ford" (691)
  - Robert Creeley "I Know a Man" (1060)
  - P.K. Page "Deaf-Mute in the Pear Tree" (997-8)
- 19      Rhyme**
- Adams, Appendix 1: "The Terminology of Rhyming" (199-202); "Meter and Rhythm" (30-36); "Some Virtuoso Pieces" (84-88)
  - George Herbert "The Collar" (242)
  - John Donne "The Sun Rising" (193-4)
  - Ben Jonson "A Fit of Rhyme against Rhyme" (215)
- 21**
- William Carlos Williams "Portrait of a Lady" (829)
  - Richard Wilbur "Junk" (1023-4)
  - Li-Young Lee "Persimmons" (1243-5)
- 26      The Sonnet and Iambic Pentameter**
- Adams, "Meter and Rhythm" (1-26); "The Sonnet" (88-92); "Sample Scansions" (203-11)
  - Thomas Wyatt "Whoso List to Hunt" (103)
  - Philip Sidney "What Length of Verse?" (157)
  - William Shakespeare Sonnet 1, 18, 130 (169, 171, 177)
  - William Wordsworth "Scorn Not the Sonnet" (486)
- 28**
- Gerard Manley Hopkins "Pied Beauty" (756)
  - Edna St. Vincent Millay "[I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed]" (887-8)
  - Gwendolyn Brooks "the rites for Cousin Vit" (999)
  - Seamus Heaney "A Dream of Jealousy" (1182-3)
  - Eric Ormsby "Skunk Cabbage" (1197)

- Oct. 3 Beyond Iambic Pentameter**
- Adams, "Beyond Iambic Pentameter" (37-69); "Sample Scansions" (211-17)
  - William Blake "The Sick Rose," "The Tyger" (446-7)
  - Edgar Allan Poe "Annabel Lee" (618-19)
  - Alfred Tennyson "Break, Break, Break" (631)
- 5**
- James Fenton "In Paris with You" (1216-17)
  - Marianne Moore "The Fish" (855-6)
  - Ezra Pound "Portrait d'une Femme" (844-5)
  - Langston Hughes "The Weary Blues" (912-13)
- 9-13 Fall Reading Week**
- 17 Image and Metaphor**
- Adams, "Figures of Speech" (132-47)
  - John Donne "Valediction Forbidding Mourning" (198-9)
  - Earle Birney "Bushed" (924-5)
  - Muriel Rukeyser "Night Feeding" (971-2)
  - Audre Lorde "Coal" (1156-7)
- 19**
- Frank O'Hara "Why I Am Not a Painter" (1076)
  - Adrienne Rich "Diving into the Wreck" (1119-21)
  - Gary Soto "The Soup" (1238)
  - **Final paper topics will be distributed**
- 24 Figurative Language**
- Adams, "Figures of Speech" (105-32)
  - John Milton *Paradise Lost* Book 4 (excerpt) (278-80)
- 26**
- Alfred Tennyson "Tithonus" (639-40)
  - Ezra Pound "Canto 1" (847-9)
- 31 Mid-term test**
- Nov. 2 Narrative Poetry**
- Robert Frost "Home Burial" (796-9)
  - Elizabeth Bishop "The Fish" (960-2)
  - Wole Soyinka "Telephone Conversation" (1159-60)
- 7 The Elegy**
- Ben Jonson "On My First Daughter"; "On My First Son" (208-9)
  - Katherine Philips "Epitaph" (312)
  - Thomas Gray "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (410-13)
- 9**
- Robert Hass "Meditation at Lagunitas" (1192-3)
  - Yusef Komunyakaa "Facing It" (1209)

- 14 The Ode**
- Adams, "The Ode" (101-3)
  - Anne Bradstreet "The Author to Her Book" (285-6)
  - Percy Bysshe Shelley "Ode to the West Wind" (543-5)
  - John Keats "To Autumn" (587)
- 16**
- John Ashbery "Ode to Bill" (1083)
  - Sharon Olds "Ode to the Condom"; "Ode to the Tampon" (handout)
- 21 Free Verse**
- Adams, "Form in Free Verse" (149-88)
  - A.R. Ammons "Corsons Inlet" (1054-7)
  - Derek Walcott "Midsummer" (1135-6)
- 23**
- Michael Ondaatje "House on a Red Cliff" (1203-4)
  - Louise Glück "Vita Nova" (1200-1)
  - Jorie Graham "The Surface" (1226)
  - **Final papers due**
- 28 Sound, Shape, and Language**
- Adams, "Form in Free Verse" (188-98)
  - George Herbert "Easter Wings" (236)
  - John Hollander "Swan and Shadow" (1104)
  - Derek Mahon "The Window" (1196)
  - Alfred Corn "A Conch from Sicily" (1199)
  - bpNichol "Blues" (handout)
- 30**
- Charles Bernstein "Of Time and the Line" (1217-18)
  - Anne Carson "Sumptuous Destitution" (1219-20)
  - Greg Williamson "Double Exposures" (1249-50)
  - Lyn Hejinian "Writing Is an Aid to Memory" (handout)
- Dec. 5**
- Rita Wong "nervous organism" (handout)
  - Susan Howe "Scattering as Behavior Toward Risk" (handout)
- 7 Exam Review**

### Additional Information

#### **Technology Use:**

Please keep the classroom technology free. Put away all laptops, iPads, cellphones, and other gadgets. If you have legitimate need for any of these items (on an ongoing or specific basis), please talk to me.

#### **Email:**

I check email on a regular basis Monday to Friday, and will respond to emails within 24-48 hours. Please do not expect an immediate response from me on weekends.

**Submission of Assignments:**

All assignments will be due in class (hard copies only). You may submit late assignments to the essay box outside the Department of English office (AHB 2G02), where they will be date- and time-stamped.

Essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. in the essay box are stamped with the previous day's date. This also applies to essays submitted before 8:30 a.m. Monday, which will be stamped with Friday's date (i.e. this can save you late penalties).

**Please do not put any assignments under office doors.**

Please remember that the Department will not accept assignments by fax or email. If necessary, and by prior arrangement only, assignments may be sent to me at the Department by post or courier.

**Be sure to keep a copy of all assignments submitted.**

**Late Assignments:**

If you submit a paper after the due date, but within two weeks of this date, the paper will be counted as late, and the following procedures will apply:

1. The paper will not be read until all previous assignments have been read and marked, and depending on the extent of the lateness, may be returned at a later date.
2. A grade will be given, but no (or minimal) comments or corrections will be provided.
3. The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day (including weekends) that it is late. The arrangement for date-stamping essays (identified above) still applies.

PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF SUBMITTED MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DUE DATE UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

Academic 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](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](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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism includes:

1. quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. submitting someone else's work, in whatever form without acknowledgement;
4. knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another.

In short: 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.

**When in doubt, cite your sources and/or check with me.**

### **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.